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GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM

CONTRIBUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME TO THE
PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DISCUSSION PAPER

Presented by the Executive Director

* UNEP/GCSS.VII/1.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Malmö Ministerial Declaration, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at its sixth special session/first Global Ministerial Environment Forum held in Malmö, Sweden from 29 to 31 May 2000, envisaged that the objective of the World Summit on Sustainable Development should be to address the major challenges to sustainable development, and in particular the pervasive effects of the burden of poverty on a large proportion of the Earth's inhabitants, counterpoised against excessive and wasteful consumption and inefficient resource use that perpetuate the vicious circle of environmental degradation and increasing poverty. The aim should not be to renegotiate Agenda 21, which remains valid, but to inject a new spirit of cooperation and urgency based on agreed actions in the common quest for sustainable development. The World Summit should review the requirements for a greatly strengthened institutional structure for international environmental governance based on an assessment of future needs for an institutional architecture that has the capacity to effectively address wide-ranging environmental threats in a globalizing world. The role of UNEP in this regard should be strengthened and its financial base broadened and made more predictable. The Declaration was transmitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

2. The Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eighth session held in New York from 24 April to 5 May 2000, considered the report of the United Nations Secretary-General: Preliminary views and suggestions on preparations for the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (E/CN.17/2000/15) and invited the United Nations Secretariat, in close cooperation with UNEP and others, to support preparatory activities, in particular at the regional and national levels, using high-level regional intergovernmental processes. UNEP was given a key role in the regional preparations, by virtue of its enhanced regional structures and the support given to regional ministerial forums. In mid-2000, UNEP, the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations regional economic commissions and others agreed on the modalities and collaborative arrangements for the preparatory process.

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 55/199 of 20 December 2000 on the World Summit, decided that the 10-year review should focus on the identification of accomplishments and areas where further efforts were needed to implement Agenda 21 and the other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit). The overall goal of the World Summit is to reinvigorate, at the highest political level, the global commitment to sustainable development and to a North-South partnership and stronger international solidarity for accelerated further implementation of Agenda 21 for the promotion of sustainable development. Specific objectives of the preparatory process include the following:

(a) To undertake the comprehensive review and assessment of progress achieved on the basis of the results of national assessment and subregional or regional preparatory meetings, the documentation to be prepared by the Secretary-General in collaboration with Agenda 21 task managers and other relevant international organizations, as well as on the basis of contributions from major groups;

(b) To identify major accomplishments and lessons learned;

(c) To identify major constraints and propose specific time-bound measures to be undertaken, and institutional and financial requirements, and identify sources of such support;

(d) To address new challenges and opportunities that have emerged since the Earth Summit within the framework of Agenda 21;

(e) To address ways of strengthening the institutional framework of sustainable development.

4. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, at its twenty-first session in February 2001, decided that the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum would decide on preparations to be made by it for the World Summit, including its further

consideration of the question of international environmental governance in the context of sustainable development.

5. The purpose of this discussion paper is to present to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum brief highlights of recent developments in relation to the activities of UNEP taken in pursuance of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the Earth Summit deemed to contribute to the objective of the World Summit, a summary of the outcomes of the regional preparatory meetings for the World Summit, and key issues and challenges concerning the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

II. STRENGTHENING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

6. UNEP plays the role of 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 as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. This role was affirmed by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session on the five-year review of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21.

7. As the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment, UNEP contributes to the implementation of Agenda 21 by catalysing environmental actions at all levels, assisting Governments through partnership with other organizations and various stakeholders. The activities of UNEP have been contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 through its core functions as identified in its mandate. Activities of UNEP in support of the implementation of Agenda 21 cover its multiple chapters, with recognition of the complexities of environmental issues that require cross-sectoral approaches. Detailed information on such UNEP activities was presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, in the report of the Governing Council on the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (A/55/447), which has been made available to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (UNEP/GCSS.VII/INF/2).

8. This section highlights the recent developments in the work of UNEP in strengthening global environmental action, which are deemed to contribute to the objective of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Further information on UNEP's recent activities will be found in the Executive Director's report on the implementation of the decisions adopted at its twenty-first session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum" (UNEP/GCSS.VII/4).

A. Building the knowledge base for policy-making and decision-making

9. Environmental assessment and early warning functions are continuously carried out by UNEP and improved to provide a strong scientific basis for policy and decision-making. Following Global Environment Outlook 2000 (GEO-2000), UNEP will publish the third Global Environment Outlook report (GEO-3) in 2002 as a major substantive input to the World Summit, providing the most up-to-date assessment of the state of the global environment and policy responses. The GEO process has gathered and synthesized global and regional data and information through its 35 GEO collaborating centres around the world. GEO-3 takes a 30-year retrospective from the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment to the 2002 WSSD, and a 30-year forward - looking perspective on global environmental developments and trends.

10. The process used in the production of the UNEP Global Environment Outlook assessments has also been instrumental in forging better linkages between intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations and the scientific community. The partnerships this process has initiated, in consultation with Governments at all levels, are forming an international cooperative assessment network serving global and regional bodies with positive benefits to the national representatives in participating institutions worldwide.

11. Other UNEP sectoral assessments, financed mainly by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), include the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA), the People, Land Management and Environmental Change Programme, the Desert Margins Programme, Land Degradation Assessment, Regionally Based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances, and World Resources 2000-2001 - People and Ecosystems: The Fraying Web of Life (with the World Resources Institute, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank). This report also presents results of the pilot phase of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, an international collaborative effort in which UNEP plays a major role. UNEP has also contributed to the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (jointly with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)). Other associated reports were also produced, for example, on small island developing States, and a youth version of the GEO report: Pachamama: Our Earth, Our Future.

12. Early warning of environmental emerging issues and threats is built upon the findings and recommendations of the GEO series of reports. The provision of environmental data and information to support early warning and vulnerability assessments is a major focus of UNEP's activities.

13. There is a need to make an assessment of human vulnerability due to environmental change and to develop vulnerability indexes, to facilitate worldwide comparison of the magnitude and nature of that vulnerability in a way that is easily understandable by policy makers. UNEP has completed a review of international work in the area of vulnerability assessment and indexes. Work continues towards the development of an index of human vulnerability due to environmental change. The concept for this composite index will be presented in the GEO-3 report, as part of a chapter on vulnerability. A fully developed index is expected by August 2002.

14. The UNEP Global Resource Information Database (GRID) contributes to the development of capacity for early warning of emerging environmental issues and threats. Among the recently developed data sets are those in the areas of population and the terrestrial environment, transboundary resource issues and natural hazards. Additional areas in which data sets are being developed are refugees and the environment, and the emerging threat to global freshwater.

15. To collect and disseminate environmental information for awareness-raising and decision-making, UNEP has taken measures to utilize new information technology. UNEP's information delivery systems, such as UNEP.Net, Infoterra and various clearing-house mechanisms and databases, are constantly being updated.

B. Policy-making and decision-making forums

16. Through its catalytic role, UNEP creates political momentum for the effective implementation of Agenda 21 and assists Governments in addressing critical environmental issues. UNEP organizes global and regional forums for policy dialogue and consensus-building on both general environmental issues and thematic issues, which are contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21.

17. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999, provides an annual, global ministerial forum for considering globally significant environmental matters in the context of sustainable development.

18. UNEP's regional structures provide organizational structures for the implementation of Agenda 21 in the regions. On a regular basis, UNEP provides substantive support and inputs to regional ministerial

conferences on the environment. At these regional forums, UNEP helps combine scientific knowledge with policy responses to address new and emerging environmental issues and enhance international cooperation. Such forums provide countries in the regions with mechanisms for the implementation of Agenda 21 from regional perspectives.

19. To assist global and regional forums in their deliberations on policies and decisions, UNEP develops environmental policies in the areas of concern of the international community, such as water and land.

C. Legal and institutional means

20. The UNEP Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme) has been instrumental in establishing and strengthening international legal regimes in the field of the environment. The first Programme was adopted by the Governing Council in 1982, while the second Programme, for the 1990s, was adopted in 1993 and addressed the implementation of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the Earth Summit. The third Montevideo Programme, for the first decade of the twenty-first century, adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-first session in February 2001, addresses the global environmental challenges of the twenty-first century from legal perspectives. It places particular emphasis on the implementation of the existing commitments and instruments in the context of sustainable development in an enhanced global partnership.

21. UNEP has continued to play a key role in the development, promotion and implementation of international environmental law on the subjects covered by various chapters of Agenda 21. Recent achievements included the adoption of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Furthermore, UNEP has been providing substantive support for the development of global and regional legally binding instruments, including those under the existing multilateral environmental agreements. Recent examples include support for the development and adoption of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. At the regional level, UNEP has provided substantive support for the development of an Association of South-East Asian Nations agreement on haze pollution control, a Caspian Sea Environment Convention and various protocols under the regional seas conventions.

22. UNEP, in collaboration with relevant convention secretariats, has been providing support for the implementation of the existing global and regional environmental conventions and development of new protocols under these conventions, including the Earth Summit-related multilateral environmental conventions. Furthermore, UNEP provides the secretariat of many multilateral environmental agreements, both global and regional instruments. Under its regional seas programme, UNEP provides the secretariats of regional seas conventions and protocols and related action plans. With the growing number of conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, UNEP has placed its focus on interlinkages and synergies among the issues addressed by various conventions.

23. To address compliance and enforcement of the multilateral environmental agreements, UNEP, with the assistance of government-designated experts, developed guidelines, further to the request of the Governing Council contained in its decision 21/27 of 9 February 2001. The guidelines on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements have been submitted to the present session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum for adoption.

24. To make legal information widely accessible, UNEP, together with the World Conservation Union (IUCN), further developed the joint UNEP/IUCN Environmental Law Information Service (ECOLEX). ECOLEX comprises a comprehensive, global database on environmental law information, which will ensure better access to such information, particularly by developing countries.

D. Supporting the development and implementation of policies and instruments

1. Freshwater

25. On the eve of the World Summit, a third of the world's population lives in countries with moderate to high water stress. Already more than five million people die each year as a result of poor water quality. Against this background UNEP extended full support to the convening and conduct of the International Conference on Freshwater (Bonn, 3 – 7 December 2001), which was a crucial component of the preparations for the World Summit. In their Ministerial Declaration, Ministers from over 46 countries, having assessed progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, underscored their recommendation that the World Summit “needs to demonstrate renewed commitments to sustainable development and political will to action”. They expressed deep concern that at the beginning of the twenty-first century 1.2 billion people live a life in poverty without access to safe drinking water, and that almost 2.5 billion have no access to proper sanitation. As part of its preparations for the World Summit, the Governing Council endorsed the new UNEP Water Policy and Strategy with three core components, i.e. assessment, management and coordination of actions. The UNEP Water Policy and Strategy provides direction for UNEP contributions to the World Water Assessment Report, the World Water Forum series and the Bonn International Conference on Freshwater. As part of its contribution to the implementation of chapter 18 of Agenda 21, UNEP lent support to the organization of regional workshops on freshwater in all regions held in the period 1995-1996. The UNEP offices as well as its collaborating centres, such as the Global International Waters Project Office (Kalmar, Sweden), the International Environmental Technology Centre (Osaka, Japan) and the UNEP Water and Environment Collaborating Centre (Denmark), have strengthened the role of UNEP and its activities in this field.

2. Land

26. During the past several years, UNEP has fostered an integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources, in which social and economic considerations unite in mutual support. It has promoted and supported research on dryland resource systems and practices for their sustainable development and management. UNEP, as its centre pillar of its strategy for desertification control, continues to promote actions in support of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa. UNEP actions to this end include assistance to develop national, subregional and regional action programmes for its implementation, improving policy-relevant assessment of dryland degradation, increasing global awareness of dryland and desertification control issues, promoting people-oriented approaches to sustainable land use and natural resource management, and preparing projects for submission for GEF financing. The Success Stories and Saving the Drylands Awards programme has been launched to help raise awareness and promote exchange of information on replicable best practices in sustainable land use and management and community participation. UNEP has embarked on a review and analysis of sustainable land use, including soil management. Particular attention is being accorded, in the unfolding review process, to the interconnections as well as interlinkages between and amongst the respective UNEP policy elements relating to land, water, climate, biodiversity, industry, chemicals, technology, legal, economic and other instruments.

3. Forests

27. UNEP has supported the collaborative partnership between the Commission on Sustainable Development, UNEP, FAO and others within the context of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) process in furtherance of the implementation of the relevant chapters of Agenda 21. In preparation for the second session of UNFF to be held in San José, Costa Rica (4 – 15 March 2002), UNEP has coordinated the preparation of the Secretary-General's reports on progress in combating deforestation and forest degradation; forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems; and rehabilitation and the conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover. These reports will be an important contribution to the World Summit.

4. Atmosphere and climate change

28. UNEP has been actively supporting the implementation of the multilateral environmental conventions. Regarding climate change, UNEP, together with WMO, has continued to support the functions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Mainly through GEF-funded projects, UNEP has been contributing to the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. On ozone layer protection, UNEP, through its activities undertaken through the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol and GEF, has provided substantive support for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

5. Biological diversity

29. In support of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, UNEP has been facilitating capacity-building to assist the effective implementation of the Protocol through the recently approved \$26.5 million UNEP/GEF global project for the development of national biosafety frameworks. The UNEP/GEF Pilot Biosafety Enabling Activity Project has been implemented at the national level for the preparation of national biosafety frameworks in many countries in different regions. Also, a number of regional workshops on biosafety and related training workshops were organized in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean. As part of its ongoing activities to promote synergy among the biodiversity-related conventions, UNEP published in early 2000 a Handbook on the Implementation of Conventions Related to Biological Diversity in Africa, which is designed to promote harmonized implementation of biodiversity-related conventions in Africa. In May 2001, UNEP launched an initiative to seek political support for great ape conservation, under the Great Apes Survival Project.

6. Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities

30. UNEP, through the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, has further contributed to international action, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the regional seas conventions and related action plans. UNEP convened the first intergovernmental review of the Global Programme of Action in Montreal from 26 to 30 November 2001, which adopted the Montreal Declaration. The Montreal Declaration provides strategic direction for the further implementation of the Global Programme of Action and should receive due attention during the World Summit.

7. Regional seas

31. To facilitate support and coordination of activities under the regional seas conventions and action plans, UNEP has been holding regular consultative meetings with the secretariats of those conventions and action plans. The Fourth Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans took place in Montreal from 21 to 23 November, and focused on the initiation of a dialogue between regional seas programmes and the private sector, specifically the shipping, oil and chemicals industries. The meeting agreed to revise the UNEP publication Regional Seas: A Survival Strategy for Our Oceans and Coasts as an input to the World Summit, focusing on the role of regional seas programmes in the protection and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources as well as concrete global and regional priorities to combat the degradation of marine and coastal resources.

8. Chemicals

32. In the field of chemicals, UNEP and FAO continued to operate the interim PIC procedure and prepare for the future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. UNEP, in cooperation with GEF, launched in September 2001 a series of subregional workshops in different regions to promote the implementation of the Stockholm Convention. UNEP conducted more than 50 capacity-building regional and subregional workshops in 2000-2001 to promote the environmentally sound management of chemicals, in particular certain persistent organic pollutants, with substantial financial support from the United States of

America. UNEP has implemented a project - Regionally Based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances - with funding from GEF. UNEP has developed the first inventory of worldwide capacity for destruction and disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Work has been under way to establish pollutant release and transfer registers in selected countries with economies in transition. The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNEP have joined forces to protect both human health and the environment by promoting strategies to reduce malaria with reduced reliance on DDT.

9. Wastes

33. UNEP continued to support and complement activities under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Since the problems of hazardous wastes are closely linked to the way in which products are generated and consumed, UNEP's activities in this field have increasingly become focused on the life-cycle economy and the role and responsibility of the private sector, particularly industry therein. UNEP's activities in the promotion of cleaner production have contributed further to the minimization of hazardous wastes. The International Declaration on Cleaner Production has been signed by many Governments and companies and business associations in various countries, and its implementation is backed by UNEP's global network of cleaner production partners in all parts of the world, including 16 UNEP/United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) National Cleaner Production Centres.

10. Environmental emergencies

34. In the context of natural and human-induced disasters, which not only affect the lives of millions of people directly every year through death, injury and economic losses but also have serious impacts on human health, property and the environment as well as overall sustainable development, UNEP has, in line with its mandate on environmental emergencies, worked closely with Governments in the development of a strategic framework on emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, mitigation and response. The strategic framework brings to the fore the close interlinkages between disasters and ecological decline, which often deepen poverty. It also provides an agenda for action that reinforces the importance of environmental concerns in disaster management and their integration into planning for relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development. UNEP is closely collaborating with the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) on substantive matters related to environmental early warning in the context of disaster mitigation and preparedness.

35. UNEP has launched in Africa its programme, Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL), which aims at promoting the prevention of industrial accidents and the preparation of emergency response plans. UNEP has also introduced and promoted it in other regions, and also developed APELL network links between countries in different regions.

11. Capacity-building

36. In order to meet the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in developing national environmental legislation and institutions, UNEP has been providing them with policy, legal and technical advisory services in key areas of institution-building and environmental management. These advisory services take the form of technical assistance to national Governments upon request (e.g. legal advisory services for developing environmental legislation and related institutions), training seminars or workshops, or awareness-raising workshops or campaigns. For the provision of such services at the national level, UNEP coordinates and collaborates with UNDP and other relevant organizations.

37. During the decade since the Earth Summit, a large number of developing countries and countries with economies in transition have benefited from such assistance from UNEP. UNEP's legal advisory services alone provided assistance to over 100 developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Recent examples include the Fifth Global Training Programme in Environmental Law and Policy (Nairobi, for a three-week period in November and December 2001), under which government lawyers and senior

officials from 50 developing countries and countries with economies in transition enhanced their expertise in environmental law.

38. In forging an international cooperative framework for environmental assessment for use in the production of the Global Environment Outlook, UNEP has focused on the transfer of methodologies to build capacity in national and international collaborating centres and intergovernmental organizations. This form of targeted capacity-building can be used to good effect at both the national and subregional levels to service national councils of sustainable development.

12. Technology transfer

39. UNEP, through its International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC), systematically disseminates information and knowledge of such technology and promotes its use. IETC continues to promote the use of environmentally sound technologies to address urban and freshwater management issues, including water resource management, sewage and solid waste. Its information exchange database, MaESTro, is being supplemented with a number of water management technologies. A number of technical documents were published, for example, on management of lakes and reservoirs, trenchless technologies, freshwater augmentation, stormwater management and wastewater treatment. Currently a citizens' programme is being developed together with non-governmental organizations and local authorities.

40. UNEP develops and operates various clearing-house mechanisms for information exchange concerning technology transfer and industry. These mechanisms include the OzonAction Information Clearing House; the International Cleaner Production Information Clearing House; MaESTro (Environmentally sound technologies information system) which meets priority needs reflected in environmental conventions and identified by Governments, particularly in the least developed countries of Africa and small island developing States.

E. Globalization, trade and environment

41. UNEP has been engaged in the integration of environmental considerations into macroeconomic and particularly trade policy. UNEP undertakes country projects on environmental and natural resource accounting and the design and application of economic instruments to achieve environmental objectives.

42. A joint UNEP-United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Capacity-building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development has been established to meet specific requests from developing countries to enhance their capacity to analyse and respond to trade-environment-development linkages.

43. UNEP has undertaken 12 country projects assessing the environmental impacts of trade liberalization, contributing to the development of methodologies to examine the complex interlinkages between trade, environment and development, and to enhance the capacity of institutions within those countries to undertake such assessments and provide Governments with policy advice. UNEP has developed a Reference Manual on Integrated Assessment of Trade-related Policies, with the assistance of an expert working group.

44. UNEP has further promoted a dialogue between the secretariats of environmental conventions and the World Trade Organization (WTO), involving also relevant Governments and non-governmental organizations, in order to enhance synergies and mutual supportiveness between multilateral environmental agreements and WTO. A list of concrete actions has been developed with a view to enhancing mutual supportiveness.

45. UNEP has initiated its tasks for the incorporation of environmental perspectives into the practices of export credit agencies. In October 2001, UNEP convened a workshop in Paris for senior executives from export credit agencies, to enhance their understanding of new challenges and opportunities associated with building effective environmental screening into their operational work supporting major investment projects around the world. UNEP provides information on environmental screening of projects, and the benefits of

such screening, in close cooperation with those partner banks, insurers and asset management companies which are signatories to the UNEP Finance Initiatives.

F. Changing consumption and production patterns

46. In order to systematically address the environmental dimensions of changing consumption and production patterns, UNEP has added its programme of work a component dealing with production and consumption. UNEP's sustainable consumption activities include developing tools, such as marketing and advertising. Life-cycle assessment and eco-design are being adapted to promote sustainable consumption agenda and made available through workshops and expert meetings, research reports and tool kits and guides. To this end, UNEP has held international workshops to promote life-cycle assessment.

47. UNEP developed a pilot Sustainable Energy Advisory Facility to provide a variety of targeted advisory services related to sustainable energy in 10 developing countries. The facility will assist decision makers to overcome specific problems regarding sustainable energy policies, projects, investments, technologies and financing. African countries represent the priority target group of the Facility. With support from the United Nations Foundation, UNEP started a programme to help establish small, private-sector energy companies in Africa that are based on renewable energy technologies. The African Rural Energy Enterprise Development (AREED) initiative brings together various financial institutions and non-governmental organizations (both African and Western) to promote successful approaches to business startups.

48. Since 1999, the development of a sustainable consumption strategy for youth has been initiated in cooperation with the UNEP Youth Advisory Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development. In response to Governing Council decision 20/19 E of 5 February 1999, a Youth and Sustainable Consumption Campaign has been launched in 17 countries in various regions. Workshops, seminars and national forums were organized to raise awareness among young people on the impact of unsustainable consumption on the environment. UNEP and young people developed a handbook and video on the subject.

49. With a view to fostering sustainable consumption, UNEP has been promoting an initiative on advertising and sustainable development. UNEP organized many meetings, seminars and conferences related to production and consumption patterns in fields such as sustainable agri-food production, mining and environmental management of industrial estates established by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

50. In 2000 UNEP joined forces with the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry to establish the Life Cycle Initiative, with a view to fostering a life-cycle economy. UNEP will develop and disseminate practical tools for evaluating the opportunities, risks, and trade-offs associated with products over their entire life cycle to achieve sustainable development. The initiative complements the framework of standards and technical reports established by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

51. UNEP supports and catalyses national and regional cleaner production centres. It will expand the network of government and industry sector experts to provide ongoing input and advice and help stakeholders take advantage of new markets. UNEP also continued to hold round-table and consultative meetings and workshops in regions to promote voluntary initiatives to increase the environmental engagement of the public and private sector reflecting the demands of civil society. UNEP is to further promote the use and implementation of the polluter-pays principle through the use of economic instruments at all levels, national, regional and global, with a special focus on implementation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

52. UNEP has furthered its efforts to promote greater environmental stewardship of the private sector, including its involvement in the creation of new voluntary initiatives, strengthening guidance on sustainable reporting, and its active role as one of three key United Nations agencies in the Global Compact of the Secretary-General.

G. Global Environment Facility

53. Acting as one of the three implementing agencies of GEF, UNEP continues to contribute to achieving the global environmental benefits arising from the implementation of the relevant chapters of Agenda 21 as well as assisting eligible countries in fulfilling their commitments under the global environmental conventions for which GEF acts as the financial mechanism. To this end UNEP is assisting 28 countries to prepare their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, 126 countries to be prepared for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 22 countries to prepare their national communication to the Climate Change Convention and 36 countries to prepare their national implementation plan under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. With an active work programme worth more than half a billion dollars, including \$300 million of GEF resources, UNEP is at work in more than 140 countries.

H. Coordination

1. Environmental Management Group

54. The coordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations systems has been one of the key functions of UNEP since its establishment. The Environmental Management Group will be instrumental in further promoting the integration of environmental dimension of sustainable development into United Nations programmes.

2. Multilateral environmental agreements

55. UNEP has collaborated with the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and related instruments in providing information on their activities for the implementation of Agenda 21 as well as their preparatory activities relating to the World Summit. Reviewing the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was an example of such collaboration.

56. In pursuance of UNEP Governing Council 21/21 of 9 February 2001, UNEP and the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements have held a series of consultations in relation to the consideration of international environmental governance. The report on multilateral environmental agreements prepared for the international environmental governance process, based on information submitted by 20 secretariats, provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges and problems facing environmental conventions and related intergovernmental agreements.

I. Support to Africa

57. The Governing Council, in its decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, identified "Support to Africa" as one of the areas of concentration of the activities of UNEP. Through the activities in all of its programme areas, UNEP has continued to be active in lending support to Africa.

58. UNEP has continued its substantive support, including secretariat services, to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), which is Africa's leading forum for high-level policy development on the environment.

59. UNEP, with funding from donor Governments, has supported the African preparatory process for the World Summit through the organization of five subregional consultation meetings under the leadership of the respective subregional organizations – the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Common Market for Eastern and the Southern Africa/Intergovernmental Authority on Development (COMESA/IGAD), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

60. UNEP, working with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (ADB) and UNDP as the Joint Expanded Secretariat for the preparation of the World Summit, organized the African Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Nairobi from 15 to 18 October 2001. Ministers responsible for environment and socio-economic development in Africa approved the assessment report on the achievements of Africa in implementing Agenda 21, the constraints encountered and the way forward. They also agreed on a ministerial statement - a political declaration on Africa's perspectives on the implementation of Agenda 21 and the way forward. UNEP also organized an industry workshop as an input to the ministerial segment of the African Preparatory Conference and a non-governmental organizations meeting. Additional statements by the youth and trade union movements were made to the Conference with the facilitation of UNEP.

61. UNEP has worked with subregional organizations (AMU, ECCAS, IGAD, COMESA, SADC and ECOWAS) as well as ADB and ECA to ensure that the environmental agenda is fully integrated in the subregional and national development agenda. The process of preparing the African regional reports for the World Summit has increased cooperation with these subregional organizations

62. UNEP continued efforts directed at understanding the linkages between poverty and environment, with special emphasis on Africa. Since over half of the least developed countries are in Africa, the need to emphasize these linkages in Africa is especially urgent. A meeting to develop guidelines and a strategy to address the issue of linkages between poverty and environment was held in Nairobi in September 2001, with the aim of finalizing these guidelines in 2002.

63. UNEP has provided technical support to the SADC Water Sector Regional Strategic Action Plan at the request of both UNDP and SADC ministers. The Nairobi Water Project undertook pollution assessment activities and, on the basis of results, the second phase was started, focusing on pollution and community education programmes to enable capacity-building among stakeholders. Under the United Nations Special Initiative on Africa, UNEP assisted African countries to strengthen key water management programmes and policies. Efforts were also undertaken to assist Governments in creating a forum similar to AMCEN for water matters, at the request of African ministers responsible for water. The detailed modalities will be worked out with the ministers.

64. UNEP, with support from donor Governments, supported African countries in the implementation of global environmental conventions. It also provided assistance to African countries in organizing a meeting for African negotiators in preparation for the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Kampala, September 2001). UNEP, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, supported the participation of African countries in a series of meetings for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety held in Havana, Bangkok, Paris and Nairobi in 2001.

65. Regarding the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, UNEP provided support for the implementation of the Convention in many African countries, especially in the preparation of the national action plans. The UNEP/GEF project Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands was formulated and African countries affected by drought and desertification are to be fully involved in it.

66. UNEP has been assisting the Parties to the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region to revitalize these instruments. UNEP has continued consultations with IUCN and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) for the revision of the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. UNEP continued to support the Parties to the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora for the implementation of the Agreement. It also supported the organization of a workshop for law enforcement agencies in Uganda in October 2001.

67. UNEP provided support to African countries in their organization of a Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption Round Table for Africa. Joint UNEP/UNIDO National Cleaner Production Centres have been established in seven African countries. UNEP has continued to undertake industry outreach activities which include a Global Reporting Initiative held in South Africa, in collaboration with the Industrial Environment Forum of Southern Africa, and a symposium on Global Compact for African Business Community, held in Tunis in May 2001.

68. A Sustainable Energy Advisory Facility has been established to provide advice to developing countries, including African countries. UNEP, as part of its activities under the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol, has continued to implement the OzonAction Programme that has been providing significant assistance to African countries in their implementation of the Protocol.

69. UNEP has organized many workshops involving Governments and stakeholders on various sectoral issues, such as technologies and hazardous chemicals, including those for the implementation of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. It has also launched a new round of country projects on trade liberalization and environment and three projects on economic instruments, including several for African countries.

70. UNEP, as an implementing agency of GEF, has been providing support to African countries in relation to the GEF focal areas. The UNEP/GEF portfolio in Africa includes 61 activities, for which the GEF Trust Fund is contributing \$48 million. In addition, the UNEP/GEF portfolio includes a number of full-size projects that are truly global in scope and involve participation of African countries. These include the development of national biosafety frameworks and the assessment of impacts of and adaptation to climate change in multiple regions and sectors.

J. Partnership with civil society and the private sector

71. UNEP has been strengthening the partnership with civil society, with the recognition that addressing the root causes of global environmental degradation requires the participation of all relevant actors. UNEP intensified consultations with non-governmental organizations, other civil-society organizations and the private sector, including those in the regions, to address environmental goals and synergy between environmental policies and social and economic development policies.

1. Civil society and non-governmental organizations

72. UNEP has continued to organize a series of meetings and panel discussions in partnership with non-governmental organizations, including meetings organized on the margins of the conferences of the parties to global environmental conventions. UNEP holds forums for non-governmental organizations in conjunction with sessions the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

73. In pursuance of Governing Council decision 21/19 of 9 February 2001, UNEP has prepared a draft strategy designed to ensure the active engagement and participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of UNEP. It has supported the non-governmental organizations in making inputs to the process leading to the World Summit through, inter alia, regional non-governmental organization forums regarding regional reviews of Agenda 21 from environmental perspectives. In May 2001, UNEP convened in Nairobi civil-society consultations on international environmental governance as well as on the engagement of non-governmental organizations and civil society in the work of UNEP.

2. Youth

74. The Governing Council, at its twenty-first session held in February 2001, adopted decision 21/22 on the engagement of young people in the work of UNEP, which seeks to increase the involvement of young people in Agenda 21 implementation and in UNEP's work. A long-term strategy on this subject will be discussed at the twenty-second session of the Governing Council in 2003.

75. In 1999, UNEP in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee developed an Agenda 21 for Sports and the Environment. The Agenda has set standards for the development of sports facilities and the staging of large sport events, particularly the Olympics. Several international sports federations and National Olympic Committees are to adopt it.

3. Private sector

76. The Global Compact established by the Secretary-General with the private sector provided an excellent vehicle for the development of a constructive engagement with the private sector in UNEP's preparations for the World Summit. The contributions of industry include the following:

(a) The preparation of industry sector reports in partnership with various industry organizations. Each of the 25 sectoral reports will assess a particular sector's progress since the Earth Summit, the remaining challenges and possible future action. Consultation with non-industry stakeholders is a key aspect of the sectoral reporting process. UNEP is therefore facilitating input and comments from non-governmental organizations, research institutes, labour unions and public authorities on these reports;

(b) A multi-stakeholder consultation process for identifying the main industrial development sustainability concerns at the regional level. This process will result in five operational documents, each of which will serve as input to the corresponding regional preparatory committee meetings. The United Nations regional commissions, UNEP and UNIDO are all part of this endeavour;

(c) A report that will document key business-related trends with a view to illustrating progress by industry towards sustainable development at both the aggregate and sectoral levels. The report will build on the above regional consultations and sectoral reporting processes. It will further draw on related activities by several international organizations and research institutes. The objective of this work is to contribute to the global preparatory activities for the World Summit with a policy-oriented document that outlines key strategies for promoting sustainable entrepreneurship;

(d) Some relevant approaches have been developed to provide an operational focus for moving towards the general concept of sustainable consumption and production. These preventive approaches include the integrated approach to cleaner production and sustainable consumption as promoted by UNEP, pollution prevention, eco-efficiency and integrated product policies. Voluntary codes of conduct which can also be important tools for encouraging improved consumption and production practices are being enhanced. UNEP is currently implementing a capacity-building project targeted at Governments and companies in developing countries to improve such tools;

(e) A strategic policy report on consumption opportunities. This report and the United Nations Guidelines on Consumer Protection constitute a comprehensive framework for Governments to promote sustainable consumption as well as consumer protection. UNEP, with Consumers International (the global umbrella organization of consumer associations), has started to survey the current status of implementation. In order to facilitate introduction of cleaner production, which includes cleaner technologies as well as the requisite management practices, some countries have developed national strategies, including consideration of cleaner technologies to meet future as well as present regulations and market demand;

(f) Preparations for the 2002 International Year of Ecotourism, recognizing the growing importance of this market segment as a means to implement Agenda 21 and of encouraging cooperation among Governments and international, regional and non-governmental organizations in promoting development that protects the environment. Well-planned ecotourism can contribute effectively to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, although serious issues yet to be fully addressed include the participation of local communities and indigenous peoples, minimizing social and cultural impacts, and visitor impact management in sensitive ecosystems. The Tour Operator Initiative for Sustainable Tourism Development, with UNEP, UNESCO and the World Tourism Organization, has contributed to the efforts of the hotel industry by introducing environmental management systems in their operations. Other sectors, such as tour operators and cruise lines, have created voluntary initiatives to promote environmental stewardship and sustainable development.

III. REGIONAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT

77. In its resolution 55/199 of 20 December 2000, the General Assembly decided that the World Summit would focus on the identification of accomplishments and areas where further efforts were needed to implement Agenda 21. This would be carried out through a comprehensive assessment of the progress achieved so far, to be conducted at local, national, regional and international levels by Governments and the United Nations system. The completion of the comprehensive assessment of progress achieved in implementing Agenda 21, the outline of the major accomplishments, the lessons learned as well as the constraints noted allowed specific proposals for future action to be formulated, together with an indication of the institutional and financial requirements. The process included national assessment consultations, followed by subregional preparatory meetings to consider the specific subregional reports and, finally, by regional preparatory meetings to approve the regional assessment reports and define regional positions.

78. Within the guidelines established by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNEP, in collaboration with the United Nations regional commissions and other key partners, established the framework for the regional preparatory process and catalysed action to produce the defined outputs. Regions prepared assessment reports of the progress made and constraints on the implementation of Agenda 21, as inputs to the regional consultations. UNEP also ensured that the conclusions of other global and regional studies and assessments such as the Global Environment Outlook 3, the Global International Waters Assessment and economic and environmental reports and surveys were considered by the regional preparatory meetings. In preparation for the regional meetings, a number of subregional preparatory meetings were held. In addition, all regions held multi-stakeholder consultations and separate meetings of the private sector, civil society and parliamentarians. UNEP was successful in securing considerable donor support for the process, notably for assessment work, civil-society participation and outreach on the World Summit. In addition, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized round-table meetings of eminent persons in all regions. The conclusions of all these meetings served as inputs into the regional meetings, at which ministerial statements or programmes of action as regional positions for the World Summit were adopted.

A. Africa

79. Within Africa, UNEP worked closely within the Expanded Joint Secretariat with ECA, OAU, ADB and UNDP. Partnerships were established with the major subregional organizations: AMU, COMESA, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC.

80. Subregional assessment reports were prepared on progress in achieving sustainable development. These were considered in five subregional meetings held: for North Africa, in Tunisia, from 5 to 7 September 2001; for Eastern Africa, in Nairobi, from 10 to 12 September 2001, for Central Africa in Gabon, from 17 to 19 September 2001; for southern Africa, in Mauritius, from 17 to 19 September 2001; and for West Africa, in Côte d'Ivoire, from 1 to 3 October 2001. A regional meeting was held in Nairobi from 15 to 18 October 2001 to consider the regional assessment report, integrating the subregional assessments as well as the reports of the regional civil-society and industry consultations. The meeting included an African

industry workshop, a non-governmental organization forum, a technical segment and a ministerial segment. A ministerial statement setting out the position of African Governments with regard to sustainable development was drafted and approved.

B. Asia and the Pacific

81. A task force and steering committee consisting of UNEP, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UNDP and the Asian Development Bank was established to carry out preparations for the Summit at the subregional and regional levels. UNEP served as the secretariat. Substantive assessment reports were prepared for the five subregions and stakeholder meetings organized. The reports were presented to the five subregional meetings that were organized with the assistance of the relevant subregional organizations. The meetings were held: for north-east Asia, in Beijing, from 26 to 28 July 2001; for the Pacific, in Apia, Samoa, from 5 to 7 September 2001; for Central Asia, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 19 to 21 September 2001, for South Asia, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 27 to 29 September 2001; and for south-east Asia, in Manila, Philippines, from 17 to 19 October 2001. All the meetings included multi-stakeholder consultations. A high-level preparatory meeting for the Summit, held in Cambodia from 27 to 29 November 2001, examined the assessment report based on the subregional assessments, and a platform for action and ministerial statement were approved.

C. Europe and North America

82. For the European and North American regions, preparations for the Summit were coordinated by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), jointly with UNEP and in close cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Regional Environment Centre (REC), GRID-Geneva and GRID Arendal. A regional assessment report on the implementation of Agenda 21 (ECE/AC.22/2001/3) was prepared jointly by ECE and UNEP, through its Regional Office for Europe, with contributions from UNDP, OECD, EEA and other international organizations and institutions, experts and consultants. In particular, linkages were established with the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) process, especially the regional European collaborating centres. Meetings of other European environmental processes, such as the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe also contributed to the preparatory process.

83. Two subregional meetings were held: for Central Eastern European countries, organized by the Government of Romania and held in Bucharest, Romania, on 27 and 28 June, and for Central Asian countries and the Caucasus, organized by the Government of Kazakhstan and held in Almaty in September 2001. This latter meeting was also a part of the regional preparatory process for Asia and the Pacific. Numerous other preparatory meetings were organized during the year, including regional assessment meetings on the 10-year review of progress in the implementation of the outcome of the Rio Conference, between Canada and the United States, as well as meetings of non-governmental organizations, the business community and others. The ministerial meeting for Europe and North America, jointly organized by ECE and UNEP, was held in Geneva, on 24 and 25 September 2001. The meeting welcomed the assessment report and adopted a ministerial statement for the Summit. The meeting included representatives of major civil-society groups, including the business community, trade unions and indigenous people.

D. Latin America and the Caribbean

84. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNEP worked with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in carrying out the regional preparatory process. Subregional assessment reports were prepared on progress in achieving sustainable development. These were considered in four subregional meetings held: for Central America, in El Salvador, on 16 and 17 July; for the Caribbean, in Havana, Cuba, on 28 and 29 June; for the Andean countries, in Quito, Ecuador, on 2 and 3 July; and for the countries of the Southern Cone in Santiago, Chile, from 12 to 14 June. Partnerships were established with the Andean Community and the Central American Integration System for the preparation of the Andean region and Central American reports, respectively, which led to inputs to the regional assessment

report; entitled “The sustainability of development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges and opportunities that were considered at the regional preparatory meeting”.

85. A meeting of the Latin American Parliament looking at parliamentary progress on the Rio agreements was held in Guatemala 11 and 12 October. Immediately before the ministerial preparatory meeting, industry consultations, a non-governmental organization forum and a technical meeting were held. The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on Sustainable Development was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 23 and 24 October 2001. The meeting adopted the Rio de Janeiro Platform for Action on the Road to Johannesburg 2002.

E. West Asia

86. Within West Asia, UNEP worked closely with the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), which established a Joint Commission for Environment and Development in the Arab Region. A joint secretariat for the regional preparatory process was established comprising the CAMRE Technical Secretariat, UNEP and the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA). Governments, UNDP, civil society, regional organizations in West Asia, including the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), the Gulf Collaboration Council (GCC), the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Drylands (ACSAD), the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), as well as national and regional research institutions and universities, all contributed to the process.

87. There were no subregional meetings because of the small size of the region. Since CAMRE includes all 22 Arab States (in West Asia and North Africa), however, representatives of North African States participated in the West Asia preparatory meetings through coordination between the Regional Office for West Asia and the Regional Office for Africa. The preparatory process included organizational meetings of the different partners, a thematic round table, organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and held in Beirut, Lebanon, from 9 to 13 April 2001, a stakeholder round table, held in Bahrain, from 23 to 25 September 2001, the West Asia Industry Forum for the Summit, held in Bahrain, on 22 September, the Regional Forum for non-governmental organizations also held in Bahrain, on 8 September 2001 and a Regional Forum for Parliamentarians in Beirut, on 15 and 16 November. The outputs of these meetings contributed to the development of the assessment report for the Arab region (North Africa and twelve West Asian countries). The Arab Region Preparatory Committee Meeting for the Summit was held in Cairo, Egypt, on 24 and 25 October 2001. This meeting considered the Arab Regional Assessment Report, prepared an Arab Declaration to the Summit and adopted a ministerial statement for the Summit. A joint ministerial meeting involving CAMRE and AMCEN is being planned for January 2002.

F. Constraints and challenges

88. The assessment reports and ministerial statements from all regions show considerable similarity as to the constraints and challenges to sustainable development that they define. The issues of greatest common concern may be summarized as follows:

1. Poverty

89. This was highlighted by all regions. Although most environmental issues were seen as contributing to poverty globally, some specific aspects were mentioned, such as deteriorating life expectancy, high population growth, unemployment and lack of education.

2. Financial constraints and the debt burden

90. Overall, the lack of finance was seen as a constraint on both the past and future implementation of Agenda 21. With regard to past implementation, debt, lack of investment and falling aid flows were singled out.

3. Globalization

91. The issue of the effect of globalization on the environment and on securing sustainable economic development was high on the list of constraints in all regions. Particular aspects that received attention included economic slowdown and competition from external sources, inadequate access to markets, and inefficient domestic production.

4. The management of environmental resources

92. Inadequate management of the natural resource base was seen by all regions as a constraint on the effective implementation of Agenda 21, and a factor behind and sometimes a consequence of poverty. The areas where this was seen as particularly important included land degradation and management, biodiversity conservation, marine resources, freshwater (freshwater was considered the principal environmental issue in West Asia), and energy.

5. Governance

93. The issue of governance was also common to all regions, but very specific aspects were brought up by some of them: the over-centralization and sectoral nature of governments; limited decentralization of national financial powers; inadequate institutions; the need to improve the effectiveness of international environmental institutions; the necessity to strengthen coordination; government transparency and democracy; and the need to increase popular participation, including civil-society involvement in sustainable development and local Agenda 21 initiatives.

6. Disasters

94. The increasing occurrence of disasters and their links with environmental factors were also highlighted by all regions. The aspects brought out included natural disasters and environmental hazards (storms, floods, etc.), mitigation strategies, the effects of climate change and industrial accidents.

7. Conflict

95. The increasing number or continuing intractability of instances of civil unrest and conflict in some regions was seen as a constraint on development, with the attendant problem of the care and later rehabilitation of refugees and displaced persons. In West Asia, it was considered the main obstacle to achieving sustainable development.

8. Technology transfer

96. Particularly in the less developed regions, sustainable development was seen as being held back by the lack of adequate access to new technologies and the slowness of technology transfer. Aspects that were cited included the digital divide, the lack of resources for research and development, and the inadequate transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

9. Health

97. Most regions cited health as a constraint on the implementation of Agenda 21, and a major factor contributing to poverty and economic development, in particular inadequate healthcare and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

10. Region-specific issues

98. Some regions cited very specific concerns. These included consumption patterns, mentioned by Asia and the Pacific, air pollution by Europe, North America and West Asia, particular cultural and spiritual factors by West Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific, inadequate environmental education by West Asia, food security by Africa and Asia and the Pacific and the need for assessment of and criteria for sustainable development by Europe and North America.

G. Proposals for action

99. The regions' priorities for action and their vision of the way forward also reflect the wide consensus on the issues indicated above. The major priority defined by all regions was poverty reduction. Other elements seen as contributing to this overall goal, and thus conceived as priorities in the regions, included natural resource management, involving access to resources and combating land degradation, debt reduction and cancellation, the implementation of education, health and social programmes, securing peace, technology transfer and modern communication and increasing public participation in development. Trade issues, as constraints on sustainable development and contributors to national and individual poverty, were also widely cited as a necessary focus of attention, particularly the creation of an open economy, mitigating the effects of globalization, and securing increased market access for developing countries. Governance was a further priority issue, including the strengthening and development of efficient public institutions and promoting democracy. It was also felt that increased attention needed to be given to multilateral environmental agreements.

H. Regional priorities

100. Specific priorities put forward for action included policy reform and developing regional strategies to address emergencies resulting from El Niño, suggested by Latin America and the Caribbean; developing population policies, by West Asia; the need for increased resource mobilization, by Africa; the necessity for cleaner technology and production and the development and integration of cleaner production centres, by West Asia and Asia and the Pacific; and increased attention to the sustainable development of small island developing States, by Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa.

I. Mechanisms for future action

101. The mechanisms through which future actions will be implemented are seen in strengthened regional cooperation, with the organizations or programmes cited variously by the regions being the League of Arab States, the African Union, the New Partnership for African Development and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy. The creation of new regional mechanisms and institutions for coordination and management was also proposed by Asia and the Pacific and West Asia, and the use of the Arab common market as a step to creating a pan-Arab market, was suggested by West Asia. Future programmes are also seen as being implemented through strengthened subregional cooperation and civil-society involvement. Specific aspects cited in West Asia included the development of an integrated pan-Arab strategy on sustainable development and of institutions in the Arab region, as well as the setting of priorities for the joint Arab work programme. In Asia and the Pacific, the strengthening of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was also proposed.

102. The development and strengthening of regional and global multilateral environmental agreements, as well as of the linkages between them are cited as a way forward, including the operationalization of the Climate Change Fund for developing countries and the Special Fund for Least Developed Countries and the revitalization the Barbados Plan of Action for small island developing States.

103. In terms of strengthened international cooperation, the aspects highlighted include enhancing the role of the United Nations, improved international environmental governance (all regions), developing and implementing GEF programmes, further developing support through Arab and Islamic funds, increasing

official development aid and exploring the possibilities of the proposed new Global Deal. The World Summit is expected to set the course of work for the future.

IV. KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

104. The United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, set out fundamental values and principles as well as priorities for action by States and the United Nations. In the Declaration, Member States signified further their commitment and political will to pursue the objectives of the United Nations.

105. To effectively address the challenges facing the planet and humanity in the twenty-first century, fundamental values underscored in the Declaration should be pursued as one overarching guiding concept integrating all of them. Freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility, all of which are mentioned in the Declaration, are interlocking to form a conceptual basis for a better future for humanity in the present and future generations and ensuring sustainable environmental bases for the planet.

106. Similarly, the priority themes emphasized in the Declaration are interdependent. Actions for "protecting our common environment" are closely linked with actions for achieving goals concerning "peace, security and disarmament", "development and poverty eradication", "human rights, democracy and good governance" and "protecting the vulnerable". A particular focus on "meeting the special needs of Africa" is common to all of these subjects. Renewed commitment by Member States for "strengthening the United Nations" supports the implementation of those actions.

107. The Declaration, in paragraph 21, proclaimed that:

"We must spare no efforts to free all of humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs."

108. Actions to achieve this objective need to be guided by the value of "respect for nature" as proclaimed by the Declaration, stating that:

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

Other values underscored in the Declaration provide elements of support to this value.

109. We must take decisive action to address the changes in patterns of the planetary systems (such as climate, biological diversity, oceans, forests and soils) as well as the root causes of such changes (such as poverty, inequality, poor governance and unsustainable patterns of production and consumption). An integrated, holistic policy approach is required to secure sustainable human progress, sustainable natural resources and environmental bases and survival of all living species on this planet, including human survival. The security of Earth is at stake.

110. Such actions should aim at full and effective implementation of the commitment to achieve goals and targets agreed to by the international community in relation to sustainable development. The Malmö Ministerial Declaration pointed out an alarming discrepancy between commitments and action. A new ethic of conservation and stewardship in environmental actions, as emphasized by the Millennium Declaration, is required to reinvigorate political will for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration and other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

111. UNEP, as the principal body of the United Nations in the field of the environment, needs to strengthen its functions to steer international actions and assist countries in taking necessary actions. Its mandate, as well as General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), Agenda 21, the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of UNEP, General Assembly resolution 53/242 and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, provide the policy direction for further strengthening of UNEP in delivering the actions required of it by the international community.

112. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum is in a unique position to provide a significant contribution to the World Summit. Such a contribution should help reinvigorate political commitment to sustainable development and build consensus on concrete outcomes with measurable benchmarks for future actions, supported by enhanced partnerships from local to global levels and effective institutional frameworks. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, when considering its contribution to the World Summit, may wish to examine the following issues and challenges.

A. Environmental governance

113. The first issue is that of environmental governance at the national, regional and global levels in support of sustainable development. A new ethic and stewardship need to be put in practice in improving environmental governance at all levels. Modalities of integrated policy development in the environmental dimension of sustainable development should be considered. Strengthening of regional environmental governance and related action and arrangements, bridging the national and global levels, should also be considered. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance, which considered issues related to international environmental governance in pursuance of Governing Council decision 21/21, has developed strategic proposals on strengthening international environmental governance for consideration by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and for the World Summit.

B. Strengthening the scientific basis for integrated policy-making and decision-making

114. Ways and means are needed to further improve the scientific basis of decision-making in global environmental issues, with particular attention to institutional frameworks designed to ensure the linkage between policy makers and the scientific community to assess the global state of the environment, including economic and social impacts, in an integrated and holistic manner. Special consideration should be given to environmental aspects of the needs of the poor and the most vulnerable. UNEP's assessment and early warning functions should be further strengthened, together with an extended global partnership in the field of environmental assessment, monitoring and information exchange.

C. Support to Africa

115. There is a need for concrete measures to meet the special needs of Africa, and special measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa. The role of the United Nations in supporting Africa's development efforts should be examined. The New Partnership for African Development, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, held in Lusaka from 9 to 11 July 2001, requires considerable commitment by Africans but also poses a challenge by the continent to the international community, to the United Nations and its members, in terms of making available the necessary means for Africa's development. The UNEP Governing Council decisions on support to Africa and the AMCEN ministerial statement on the World Summit provide strategic direction.

D. Interlinkages of global environmental issues

116. Critical global environmental issues are closely interlinked, for example in the case of linkages between climate change, desertification, forests, biological diversity and water issues. Recognition of such interlinkages should lead to the consideration of ways and means to better integrate the processes of scientific assessment, policy discussions and policy-making, as well as policy implementation. The

functions of UNEP in enhancing programmatic linkages of global environmental issues should be further strengthened. Institutional arrangements to strengthen collaboration between UNEP and other relevant entities, including multilateral environmental agreements entities competent in the fields other than the environment (such as trade, economic development or human rights) should be pursued.

E. Strengthening the implementation of the Rio principles

117. The principles of the Rio Declaration on environment and development should be promoted and put in practice with legal and institutional foundations, where appropriate. The Malmö Ministerial Declaration and the Millennium Declaration underline the growing relevance and need for the implementation of those principles, such as that of common but differentiated responsibilities, the polluter-pays principle and the precautionary approach. Some of them have already been incorporated into international legally binding instruments, so further work should be done to enhance their application. Through the implementation of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century (Montevideo Programme III), UNEP should promote the implementation of the principles of the Rio Declaration, including by the development of legal and institutional means.

F. Freshwater

118. Actions to build a regional and global alliance to implement the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the International Conference on Freshwater (Bonn, Germany, 3-7 December 2001). On the eve of the World Summit, water remains a key to poverty alleviation and sustainable development. The International Conference on Freshwater highlighted the international community's concerns. The Conference called for political and forward-looking measures to improve and facilitate implementation of agreed goals in the water-related fields of sustainable development. The outcome of the Conference, including the ministerial declaration and the recommendations of the multi-stakeholder dialogue segment as well as the UNEP Water Policy and Strategy contain proposals for ensuring better integration of water management challenges, enhancement of cooperation, coherence at the regional and global levels and responses needed for a more effective international water agenda.

G. Oceans and seas

119. The Montreal Declaration on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities should serve as strategic guidance for the further implementation of the Programme, which contributes to achieving the objectives of Part XII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as well as those of the regional seas conventions and action plans. Effective implementation of the commitments under the regional seas conventions and action plans will be a key for improving the quality of life of people who depend for their living on the sustainability of marine resources, as well as for the conservation of the coastal and marine environment. Linkages between the environmental dimension and other dimensions of oceans and seas affairs (for example, fisheries, ocean and sea transport or tourism) should be further examined and UNEP's action should be strengthened in such areas.

H. Climate change

120. Efforts should be made to bring into force the Kyoto Protocol, and embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases and the implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism. UNEP's contribution to climate change issues, including its contribution to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, programmatic support to the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, including those funded through GEF, should be further strengthened.

I. Biological diversity

121. Further action should be taken to press for the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the bringing into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. UNEP's contribution to the issues relevant to biological diversity and biosafety, such as assessment and information, conservation projects on specific species (for example, great apes and corals), and other relevant activities, including those funded through GEF, should be further strengthened.

J. Forests

122. Intensification of collective efforts for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, as stressed by the Millennium Declaration, need to be pursued, bearing in mind the interlinkages with other environmental issues.

K. Land degradation

123. In the face of growing degradation of the land resource base and persistent rural poverty and food insecurity, achieving the commitments from Rio and the World Food Summit, desertification and land use are clearly more imperative than ever and call for implementation with renewed will and additional means. In particular, processes of policy and institutional reform must be reinforced and closely coordinated with the greatest emphasis on poverty eradication, food security and sustainable management of resources. As regards desertification and other forms of land degradation, the existing gap in the implementation of Agenda 21 is glaring in terms of allocation of financial resources, synergistic programmes and effective action. This gap should be filled urgently in order to stop the further extension of rural poverty, mass migration and irreversible losses of land resources, which threaten the global food security. Options for action for consideration by the World Summit could include:

(a) An enhanced cross-cutting assessment of land-related issues with environmental key topics such as climate change, biodiversity, forestry, wetlands, chemicals and globalization by developing and using more harmonized methodologies and indicators, which are elaborated e.g. through an international scientific assessment panel on land and soil following the model of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and its catalytic function for the climate change discussions;

(b) A country-focused, worldwide assessment of the priority needs in the rehabilitation of degraded lands and a survey of the state of the art in land rehabilitation and integrated catchment basin management;

(c) Stronger support through existing scientific knowledge to policy development for multisectoral land use management. The Governing Council, at its twenty-first session, endorsed a new vision for UNEP's policy on land use, emphasizing the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the need for greater efforts in promoting synergies relating to land degradation in various environmental fields. Action should be intensified for the full implementation of the Convention.

L. Chemicals and wastes

124. Efforts should be intensified to bring into force the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Efforts should also be intensified to bring into force the 1995 amendment to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage caused by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Consideration should be given to the development of a strategic approach on chemicals management as envisaged in Governing Council decision 21/7 of 9 February 2001. Further support should be given to the work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals. Synergies between the Rotterdam, Stockholm and the Basel Conventions should be pursued, taking into consideration the clustering approach identified during the discussions at the

Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance. The environmental health impact of chemicals and wastes, in particular on the most vulnerable (for example, children and the urban or rural poor), should be given further attention.

M. Environmental emergencies

125. There is a need for intensified cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters, as emphasized in the Millennium Declaration. The environmental assessment and early warning functions of UNEP should be strengthened to assist decision makers in their efforts to prevent or mitigate the magnitude of environmental disasters. UNEP's collaboration with the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs should be further pursued. UNEP should strengthen partnership with government authorities, as well as the private sector and civil-society organizations, to enhance local preparedness to prevent or mitigate the impact of man-made disasters. Measures should be taken to ensure that information on hazardous installations is available at the local level and the relevant procedures are established to allow local communities to take part in the process of decision-making concerning the sites of hazardous installations, in accordance with principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.

N. Compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements

126. Concerted action should be taken by parties to multilateral environmental agreements to ensure that the parties, individually or jointly, undertake action for ensuring compliance and enforcement of the respective obligations. The special needs and circumstances of developing countries and countries with economies in transition need to be taken into account. Consideration should be given to the possible development of mechanisms under which the status of compliance with and/or enforcement of such agreements is observed. The use of the UNEP "Guidelines on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements", which are before the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at the present session for adoption, should be promoted. UNEP should make arrangements with the secretariat or the conference of the parties to those agreements to regularly receive information on the subject in order for the Council/Forum to consider global environmental issues covered under such agreements and make recommendations as mandated by the General Assembly.

O. Financing

115. The growing decrease of financial resources in support of sustainable development remains a central preoccupation. Financial resources for the full and effective implementation of Agenda 21 and related commitments in relation to sustainable development should be secured. The target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance should be considered. There should be an agreement at the World Summit on the modalities for financing sustainable development activities, including those covering the environmental dimension. Consideration should be given to the establishment of new and additional funds specifically targeted at the eradication of poverty, which should take into account the relationship between the environment and poverty. It is hoped that the International Conference on Financing for Development (March 2002) will contribute to providing solutions. The financial basis of UNEP should be strengthened, with the provision of stable, adequate and predictable financial resources enabling it to meet the global environmental challenges. Further attention should be given to strengthening the strategic partnership between UNEP and GEF.

P. Globalization

127. Measures should be taken to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the people and for the enhancement of the global environment. Environmental stewardship will be required in a "rule of conduct" involving foreign direct investment and activities of transnational corporations. A high degree of attention should be accorded to environmental and social issues in the debate over globalization considering that the impact of globalization reaches far beyond financial and economic matters. By incorporating such dimensions as the environment, health, cultural diversity, social justice and governance, the debate will revolve around equitable and balanced development as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration. UNEP

should make a contribution through its programmatic activities, such as environment and trade and economics. Recent developments in WTO should be taken into account. UNEP's partnership with WTO and UNCTAD in capacity-building and cross-sectoral policy dialogue should be strengthened.

Q. Environmental security

128. The links between the environment, food security, human health and security (in terms of freedom from the fear of losing access to natural resources, foods or health, particularly for the poor) should receive increased attention. The concerns of the international community about the health impacts of global environmental change, the use of genetically modified organisms and the effects of hazardous chemicals and wastes should be addressed.

R. Energy

129. One issue that requires urgent attention by the international community, and which should feature prominently at the World Summit, is energy. There should be concrete decisions for accelerating the introduction of renewable and sustainable energy - a pressing issue facing the international community, in particular developing countries. UNEP should be more active in this field.

S. Capacity-building and technology transfer

130. More effective forms of capacity-building, technology transfer and country-level coordination for the environmental pillar of sustainable development should be put in place. The ability of developing countries to participate meaningfully in the development of international environmental policy and to undertake the requisite implementation of international agreements at the national level must be strengthened so that environmental policy is translated into sustainable development. Arrangements for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies should be central to the discussions. UNEP should strengthen its programme of capacity-building and this role should be clearly defined in the work of UNEP. IETC should strengthen its functions to facilitate international efforts in technology transfer. UNEP should strengthen its partnership with UNDP and other field-oriented agencies in coordinating country-level activities of a strategic and catalytic nature.

T. New development goals

131. Consideration should be given to new development goals based on the social, economic and environmental requirements of sustainable development. The World Summit offers an opportunity for building consensus on new development goals based on the need for sustainable development that meets social, economic and environmental requirements. The environmental problems of today can no longer be dealt with in isolation. As UNEP's Global Environment Outlook 2000 made clear, the environmental problems of today are linked to social demands, demographic pressures and poverty in developing countries, counterposed against excessive and wasteful consumption in developed countries. Poverty's impact on the environment has taken centre stage in the intergovernmental dialogue on the World Summit. Models of truly sustainable development must take into account human rights, equality of opportunities and the equitable sharing and governance of the global commons. Poorer people must play a central role in defining these models as well as planning and implementing them. Eradication of poverty in the South must be a benchmark for the Summit. Consideration should be given to the possibility of the Summit agreeing on a global programme of action to combat the environmental dimensions of mass poverty in which UNEP will play a central role.

U. National strategies for sustainable development

132. New thinking should be brought about for the development of national strategies for sustainable development. Agenda 21 called on all countries to develop national strategies for sustainable development to translate the words and commitments of the Earth Summit into concrete policies and actions. It recognized that key decisions are needed at the national level, and should be made by all stakeholders. It

was believed that the huge agenda inherent in sustainable development needed an orderly approach in the form of a strategy. A decade after the Earth Summit, the challenge of putting in place national strategies for sustainable development has not been fully met. The challenge now is to ensure that the World Summit examines the measures needed to bring about greater progress. UNEP should contribute to their development as they relate to the environment.

V. Vulnerability of small island developing States

133. The vulnerability of small island developing States must be addressed. Action to address adaptation to and mitigation of the potential effects of climate change at a more local management level has gained increasing urgency. While global action to tackle the reduction of climate change is important, the question of local impacts and how to address them should be raised. The measures needed to prepare those countries where climate change and sea level rise could occur should receive greater attention. It is these “existing hot spots” that would bear the brunt of the changes. The small island developing States in the Caribbean and other regions are taking an active part in the review of progress made - or not made - in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action in the context of the preparations for the Summit. In their meetings of December 2001 on the regional seas programme, UNEP and the Global Programme of Action identified measures for consideration by the World Summit.

W. Partnership with civil society and the private sector

134. There should be a global agreement to fully integrate the efforts of civil society and the private sector in the overall efforts of the international community to achieve the goals of environmental protection and sustainable development. The guidelines developed in pursuance of Governing Council decision 21/19 (engagement of civil society) and the Global Compact established by the United Nations Secretary-General with the private sector provide strategic direction. Civil society plays a critically important role in addressing environmental issues. The role, capabilities and involvement of civil-society organizations have been enhanced significantly since the Earth Summit, hence the need to further step up their engagement in environmental matters. The Millennium Declaration provides additional compelling reasons for new forms of cooperation with civil society. The World Summit must not only enhance but should give a new content and response to the future role of major groups as envisaged in Agenda 21. UNEP should continue strengthening its partnership with civil society and the private sector.

X. Environmental dimension of the dialogue among civilizations

135. The Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/6 of 9 November 2001, provides strategic guidance to promote a common understanding of environmental challenges facing the civilizations that make up today’s world. During the twenty-first session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2001, a panel was set up to explore how a dialogue among civilizations can be promoted from an environmental perspective. The recent UNEP publication Earth and Faith: A Book of Reflection and Action, which is a result of collaboration with the Interfaith Partnership for the Environment, is a major contribution in support of the dialogue. Furthermore, the International Seminar on the Environment, Religion and Culture held in the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2001 in collaboration with UNEP enhanced the inter-faith dialogue from the environmental perspective. Without understanding of and tolerance for the different cultural and spiritual dimensions, peace will never be achieved. The ecological crisis facing humanity is deeply rooted in a complex web of economic, social, and cultural factors as well as belief systems, societal attitudes and perception. The emergence of the new environmental ethic for the twenty-first century should be based on a code of conduct and a code of moral duty for all human beings. These issues should be central to the discussions at the World Summit.

Y. Ethical and spiritual values

136. Due attention should be given to the need to integrate ethical and spiritual value considerations into sustainable development policies. Concrete measures to harness the full potential of a new economy to make meaningful contributions in areas of information technology, biology and biotechnology should take into account their ethical, spiritual and social implications. Respect for ethical and spiritual values, reflected in cultural diversity, human rights and protection of indigenous knowledge, should be exercised in pursuit of sustainable development. This has particular importance in a rapidly globalizing world, and will deserve to be placed in a critical assessment of the progress made since the Earth Summit. UNEP's work should also bear those issues in mind.

V. CONTRIBUTION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

137. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/199 of 20 December 2000 and the recent decisions of the Bureau of the tenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum may wish to convey its contribution to the World Summit in a format that covers the following:

- (a) Actions for strengthening the implementation of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the Earth Summit, including those addressing:
 - (i) New challenges and opportunities;
 - (ii) Decisions on the requirements for greatly strengthened global and regional structures for international environmental governance;
- (b) Renewed political commitment and support for sustainable development;
- (c) Partnerships at the global, regional and national levels;
- (d) Implications for the institutional framework;
- (e) Mechanisms for monitoring the outcomes of the World Summit.
