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Policy issues: State of the environment

**STATE OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME TO EFFORTS
TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES**

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report has been prepared in response to a number of decisions of the Governing Council adopted at its twenty-first session, as detailed in the introduction to the report, on the mandate, and relates to activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in such areas as: environmental assessment and information, which relates, inter alia, to the Global Environment Outlook process; Arctic issues; Asian brown cloud; and the environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; as well as the development and implementation of environmental policy instruments relating to such issues as land degradation, chemicals management, lead in gasoline, biodiversity and biosafety, the Grate Apes Survival Project (GRASP), the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), adaptation to climate change, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, the water policy and strategy of UNEP, coral reefs and marine mammals, the global assessment of the state of the marine environment, the global observing systems, support to Africa and the contribution of UNEP to future sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

* UNEP/GC.22/1.

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INTRODUCTION

Mandate

1. The present report has been prepared in pursuance of the following Governing Council decisions: 20/1 of 4 February 1999 (Global Environment Outlook); 21/1 of 9 February 2001 (Land degradation: support for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa); 21/3 of 9 February 2001 (Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade); 21/5 of February 2001 (Global assessment of mercury); 21/6 (Lead in gasoline); 21/7 (Chemicals management); 21/8 of 9 February 2001 (Biosafety); 21/9 of 9 February 2001 (Atmosphere); 21/10 of 9 February 2001 (Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities); 21/11 of 9 February 2001 (Water policy and strategy of UNEP); 21/12 of 9 February 2001 (Coral reefs); 21/13 of 9 February 2001 (Global assessment of the state of the marine environment); 21/15 of 9 February 2001 (Support to Africa); 21/16 of 9 February 2001 (Environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories); 21/28 of 9 February 2001 (Further development and strengthening of regional seas programmes: promoting the conservation and sustainable use of the marine and coastal environment, building partnerships and establishing linkages with multilateral environmental agreements); as well as SS.VII/3 of 15 February 2002 (Strategic approach to international chemicals management); and SS.VII/7 of 15 February 2002 (Environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories).
2. These actions have been undertaken within the framework of the areas of concentration of UNEP activities as defined in Governing Council decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998. In addition, the report highlights the involvement of UNEP in the issues for consideration by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its future sessions.

I. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND INFORMATION

A. Global Environment Outlook process

3. In response to Governing Council decision 20/1 of 4 February 1999, by which, among other measures, the Council approved the continuation of the Global Environment Outlook process and requested the Executive Director to produce a third Global Environment Outlook report (GEO-3), to review the 30 years since the Stockholm Summit, GEO-3 was published in May 2002. A global media launch was held in London and an electronic version of the report was simultaneously made available on the United Nations Environment Programme web site. The political launch of GEO-3 took place in Bali, Indonesia, on 6 June 2002, during the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
4. The report has since been published in the five other United Nations languages, launched at many other venues in different regions and widely distributed to Governments and interested groups. This is the first time that UNEP has published a comprehensive report, such as GEO, in all six United Nations languages within a period of fewer than six months.
5. The GEO-3 report has five chapters, as follows:
 - (a) Chapter 1, "Integrating environment and development: 1972–2002", provides an overview of environment and development issues over the past 30 years;
 - (b) Chapter 2, "State of the environment and policy retrospective: 1972–2002", presents an integrated state-of-the-environment and policy analysis of key environmental issues at global and regional levels;

(c) Chapter 3, “Human vulnerability to environmental change”, discusses the increasing vulnerability of people due to environmental degradation and disasters;

(d) Chapter 4, “Outlook: 2002–2032”, uses a scenario approach to present four different visions of the future; and

(e) Chapter 5, “Options for action”, summarizes major cross-cutting issues and presents a range of policy actions aimed at strengthening the environmental pillar of sustainable development.

6. Evidence documented in GEO-3 shows immense change in both human and environmental conditions over the past 30 years. In an unprecedented period of population increase, the environment has been heavily drawn on to meet a multiplicity of human needs. In many areas, the environment is in a much more fragile and degraded state than it was in 1972. The report concludes that four major divides now face the world posing a serious threat to sustainable development:

(a) Environmental divide — characterized by a stable or improved environment in some regions and a degraded environment in the areas, mostly the developing countries;

(b) Policy divide — with some regions having strength in policy development and implementation and others still struggling in both areas;

(c) Vulnerability gap — which is widening within society, between countries and across regions, putting the disadvantaged more at risk to environmental change and disasters;

(d) Lifestyle divide — one side of which is characterized by excesses of consumption by the minority one-fifth of the world population, responsible for nearly 90 per cent of total personal consumption; and the other side by extreme poverty, with 1.2 billion living on less than \$1 per day.

7. A 16-page booklet, summarizing the main report, has also been published in all the six United Nations languages, as well as in Japanese. The booklet, entitled *GEO-3 Synthesis*, is distributed to Governing Council members as a separate document.

B. Arctic issues

8. UNEP has had observer status in the Arctic Council and its predecessor, the Arctic Environment Protection Strategy (AEPS), since 1994 and is recognized as a major and active partner with the Arctic Council. The Inari Declaration of the Arctic Council is an example of such partnership. The Executive Director has participated actively in Arctic Council activities and was a key speaker at the tenth anniversary of AEPS in Rovaniemi in 2001.

9. The Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR) has also cooperated with the UNEP Global Resource Information Database (GRID) at Arendal and was instrumental in initiating the UNEP/GRID-Arendal work with indigenous peoples. UNEP, through GRID-Arendal, has also been involved in the Barents Council and several other forums. It is actively involved in the working groups of the Arctic Council, including those on the Arctic monitoring and assessment programme (AMAP), the conservation of Arctic flora and fauna (CAFF) and sustainable development.

10. UNEP/GRID-Arendal also works closely with the permanent participants of the Arctic Council, especially the Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation (RAIPON), the Saami Council and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC). With WHO, UNEP is cooperating with RAIPON in collecting, analysing and distributing regional information on health and the environment in the Russian Arctic.

11. There is a clear role for UNEP/GRID-Arendal, particularly with the University of the Arctic. The University of the Arctic is one of the co-chairs of the Arctic Human Development report project, where

information and links to the United Nations community are clearly needed. UNEP signed a memorandum of understanding with the University in 2002. The director of the University of the Arctic is now hosted by UNEP/GRID-Arendal, enabling UNEP/GRID-Arendal to participate and benefit from research on sustainable development in the Arctic.

12. The proposal for a UNEP/Global Environment Facility (GEF) medium-sized project to support adaptation to and documentation of climate change under the leadership of the Arctic Council working group on Arctic climate impact assessment (ACIA) will facilitate progress in evaluating and synthesizing knowledge on climate variability and change and on ultraviolet radiation.

C. Asian brown cloud

13. Recent decades have witnessed impressive economic development in Asia, home to some 60 per cent of the world's population. This has resulted in higher demands for energy, mobility and communications. The scope and magnitude of the environmental consequences of these demands are far reaching, especially with respect to air pollution at local and regional levels. The most visible impact of air pollution is the haze, a brownish layer of pollutants and particles from biomass burning and industrial emissions that pervades many regions in Asia. A recent international study, the Indian Ocean experiment (INDOEX), has revealed that this haze is transported far beyond the source region, particularly during December and April.

14. The report contained in UNEP/GC.22/INF/32 is the first comprehensive study of the South Asian haze and its impact on climate. It is largely based on the studies of the INDOEX team of over 200 scientists from Europe, India and the United States of America. It provides a summary of the large brownish haze layer and its impact on the radiative heating of the atmosphere and the surface in South Asia and the adjacent Indian Ocean during the INDOEX campaign.

15. The results listed in the report are preliminary in nature but do indicate possibilities of substantial changes in climate scenario and impacts even when greenhouse gases are considered. Notwithstanding the advances by INDOEX, significant scientific uncertainties remain. On the policy side, the evidence of long-range transport of the haze complicates potential methods of dealing with the problem, as responses must be coordinated among sovereign States.

D. Environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

16. The activities specified in Governing Council decisions 21/16 of 9 February 2001 and SS.VII/7 of 15 February 2002 have been duly implemented by the Executive Director. Owing to the situation in the region, the activities were not implemented in sufficient time for the report to be taken into consideration in the present document. The Council will, however, receive an addendum to this document on the issue and an information document reporting on the desk study of the environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, as soon as they are finalized.

II. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY INSTRUMENTS

A. Land and soil

17. UNEP is preparing an enhanced land policy, as described in Governing Council information document UNEP/GC.22/INF/25. The purpose of this document is to define the role of UNEP in land use management and soil conservation, under the functional approach set out in decision 21/1 of 9 February 2001. UNEP will base its land and soil policy on the ecosystem approach that will, among other things, highlight the direct link between environmentally sustainable land use and sustainable development, including poverty reduction. UNEP is also working with partners to develop policy responses to the potential impacts of climate change on land use, including agriculture.

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

18. Participation of the secretariat of UNEP in the interim secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention was authorized by the Governing Council in its decision 21/3 of February 2001.

19. The eighth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee was held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, from 8 to 12 October 2001 and its ninth session in Bonn, from 30 September to 4 October 2002.

20. The second session of the Interim Chemical Review Committee was held at FAO headquarters in Rome, from 19 to 23 March 2001 and the third session in Geneva, from 17 to 21 February 2002.

21. The following chemicals have been added to the interim prior informed consent (PIC) procedure, bringing the total number of chemicals up to 32: binapacryl (pesticide), toxaphene (pesticide), ethylene dichloride (pesticide), ethylene oxide (pesticide) and monocrotophos (pesticide). In addition, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee has made excellent progress in preparing for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

22. A workshop curriculum has been developed that provides practical training on the operational elements of the interim PIC procedure. The following workshops have been held:

(a) Subregional workshop for English-speaking countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region in Kingston, Jamaica;

(b) Subregional workshop for French-speaking countries in the African region in Dakar, Senegal;

(c) Regional workshop for countries in the Near East region in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran;

(d) Subregional workshop for Central and Eastern European countries in Kiev, Ukraine;

(e) Subregional workshop for English-speaking countries in Africa in Windhoek, Namibia, scheduled for 17-21 February, 2003.

23. The secretariat has printed and distributed a booklet with the text of the Convention in all official United Nations languages.

24. The new web site of the Convention is now operational on www.pic.int.

25. As of 15 November 2002, there were 35 parties to the Convention. The Convention will enter into force 90 days after the deposit of the fiftieth ratification.

C. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and immediate actions to address persistent organic pollutants

26. Participation of the secretariat of UNEP in the interim secretariat of the Stockholm Convention was authorized in advance by the Governing Council in its decision 21/4 of February 2001, if so decided by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, provided that such arrangements were satisfactory to the Executive Director and that costs were met through extrabudgetary resources.

27. On 22 May 2001, the Stockholm Convention was adopted by a conference of plenipotentiaries convened for this purpose in Stockholm. The Convention was open for signature from 23 May 2001 to

22 May 2002 and, in that time, 151 Governments signed. The Convention text is contained in appendix II of document UNEP/POPS/CONF/4.

28. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries also adopted a number of resolutions (see appendix I of document UNEP/POPS/CONF/4), including one on interim arrangements. Paragraph 3 of the resolution on interim management invites the Executive Director of UNEP to convene such further sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, which developed the Convention, during the period between the date on which the Convention is opened for signature until the opening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to oversee the implementation of international action to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs) within the scope of the Convention and to prepare for and service the Conference of the Parties until the end of the fiscal year in which its first meeting takes place. Paragraph 12 of the resolution requests the Executive Director to provide secretariat services for the operation of the interim activities.

29. Since its adoption of the Stockholm Convention, the secretariat of UNEP has served as its interim secretariat. The first session during the interim period of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (the sixth overall) was held from 17 to 21 June 2002 in Geneva. The Committee adopted 19 decisions (see annex I to document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22). The Committee took note of the budget of the interim secretariat for 2003 of \$3,743,696. Noting that the budget required a 13 per cent overhead charge to be paid to UNEP, the Committee called for an examination of the possibility of reducing these costs or UNEP of providing a finance officer under that allocation (see paragraph 51 of document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22). As of 1 November 2002, Governments had contributed or pledged \$150,000 towards the 2003 budget.

30. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee also established the Expert Group on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices (see paragraph 75 of document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22), the first meeting of which is scheduled to take place from 10 to 14 March 2003 in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, United States of America.

31. The seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee is scheduled for 14-18 July 2003 in Geneva.

32. Switzerland has offered to provide full funding for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention in a developing country. At the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, representatives of Switzerland and Uruguay announced that preparations were under way for the possible holding of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Uruguay. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee welcomed the news of these discussions.

33. GEF, as a principal entity of the interim financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention, has already begun providing funding to eligible countries to assist them in preparing national implementation plans. As of 1 November 2002, 43 developing countries or countries with economies in transition had been approved funding from GEF for this purpose, with another 62 proposals for such funding in process. UNEP has been selected by 60 countries as the implementing agency to assist them in the development of their implementation plan for GEF. The second GEF Assembly, held in Beijing, in October 2002, agreed to amend the GEF Instrument to designate POPs as a focal area and confirmed the availability of GEF to serve as the entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention. Information on UNEP participation in GEF may be found in documents UNEP/GC.22/3 and UNEP/GC.22/INF/10.

34. The secretariat of UNEP continued to implement its programme of immediate actions to address POPs, pursuant to paragraph 13 of Governing Council decision 19/13C. During 2001 and 2002, 32 regional and subregional workshops were held, 22 POPs-related publications were produced and widely distributed, including two guidance documents on alternative approaches to POPs pesticides and a toolkit for identification and quantification of dioxin and furan releases. Governments have contributed nearly \$2.5 million in support of these immediate actions and more than \$2 million has been received or pledged from the Canadian POPs Fund established by the World Bank to support this work.

35. As of 15 November, there were 23 parties to the Convention. The Convention will enter into force 90 days after the deposit of the fiftieth ratification.

D. Key findings of the global mercury assessment

36. Pursuant to decision 21/5 (global assessment of mercury and its compounds), UNEP carried out the process of understanding a global assessment of mercury and its compounds, through, inter alia, the Global Mercury Assessment Working Group, which was established to ensure openness, transparency and inclusiveness in the process. The full report of the Working Group, which met in Geneva from 9 to 13 September 2002, is available to the Governing Council as document UNEP/GC.22/INF/2, while the Global Mercury Assessment report is available to the Governing Council as document UNEP/GC.22/INF/3. Based on the key findings of the assessment report, the Working Group concluded that, in its view, there was sufficient evidence of significant global adverse impacts of mercury compounds to warrant international action to reduce the risks to human health and/or the environment arising from the release of mercury into the environment. The Working Group developed, as requested in decision 21/5, an outline of possible options for addressing these impacts, including a number of proposals for actions that might be implemented immediately, for the Governing Council's consideration. Additional details, including the key findings and the outline of options, are available in document UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.1.

E. Lead in gasoline

37. UNEP is playing a key role in phasing out leaded gasoline worldwide, one of the specific objectives agreed on at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Together with Governments, the private sector and civil society organizations, UNEP has taken the lead in developing an action plan for the phase-out of leaded gasoline in east Africa, which has contributed to the introduction of clean fuels in the region. In addition, World Summit partners have decided to develop a global partnership for clean fuels and vehicles for cleaner air in developing countries. Partners have offered support to UNEP to establish a secretariat for this partnership within UNEP, to promote the implementation of this important global initiative.

38. In 2002 UNEP conducted a survey on the status of government efforts to phase out lead in gasoline, which demonstrated that actions have been initiated in most regions and that, except for most countries on the African continent, the markets are evidently moving towards unleaded gasoline. Suggested action by the Council may be found in document UNEP/GC.22/5.

F. Strategic approach to international chemicals management

39. In its decision SS.VII/3 of 15 February 2002, the Governing Council decided that there was a need to and endorsed the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action beyond 2000 as the foundation of the approach to strategic chemicals management. The decision set out consultation requirements and an analytical process involving a review of current and planned chemical safety activities, identification of gaps and the proposing of priorities and projects. In September 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development endorsed the further development of a strategic approach by 2005.

40. An initial steering committee has been formed to plan the process for developing the strategic approach. The committee comprises the seven participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC),¹ together with IFCS, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank.

41. Among options for further developing the strategic approach to international chemicals management, the steering committee concluded that fulfilling the potential of the strategic approach to energize the international community's efforts to improve chemicals management and to mainstream chemical safety as a sustainable development issue will depend on the initiative being positioned as a clear advance on the status quo, for example by:

- (a) Breadth of its inclusiveness (ensuring that government, international organization and non-governmental organization stakeholders from all sectors, including environment, health, labour, industry, agriculture and development, are engaged;
- (b) Active commitment of the development agencies to supporting capacity-building for enhanced chemicals management;
- (c) Pursuit of a concerted plan with a view to ensuring that objectives agreed under the strategic approach are followed up by commitments from the governing bodies of participating organizations; and
- (d) High-level endorsement of the strategy at the proposed international multi-sector conference.

42. The steering committee proposes that the process of developing a strategic approach should culminate in a high-level, multi-sector conference in late 2005, which would fill the role of the open-ended consultative meeting involving representatives of all stakeholder groups referred to in the Governing Council decision. The conference would adopt a strategy document and possibly a political declaration. These documents would be developed during two preparatory meetings and would also draw on: the outcomes of the fourth session of IFCS, to be held in November 2003; the results of the initial questionnaire; the review of current and planned chemical safety activities, identification of gaps and the proposing of priorities and projects called for in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of decision SS.VII/3; and, where appropriate, on individual sector consultations. The estimated cost of such a process would be approximately \$4 million, spread over three years. Suggested action and further information in this area may be found in documents UNEP/GC.22/5 and UNEP/GC.22/INF/22, respectively.

G. Biodiversity and biosafety-related issues

43. This section highlights the activities, achievements, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of Governing Council decision 21/8 of 9 February 2001, on biosafety, in relation to modern biotechnology. It presents the status and achievements of the UNEP/GEF programme on biosafety since its approval by the GEF Council in November 2000. It is now evident that, in order to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, new legal and regulatory frameworks are required at the national level since many countries, especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition, are already being called upon to make decisions regarding the import and export of products containing, or derived from, transgenic organisms or the use of products or the techniques of modern biotechnology.

44. Note should be taken of the progress made in the implementation of the UNEP/GEF programme on the development of national biosafety frameworks. Under the framework of the programme, four regional biosafety awareness workshops were held during the first half of 2002, as part of the component on regional capacity-building activities of relevance to the development of national biosafety frameworks. Detailed information on activities related to the implementation of the UNEP/GEF global programme for the development of national biosafety frameworks, including the development of the UNEP/GEF demonstration projects on implementation of these frameworks, is provided in document UNEP/GC.22/INF/17. GEF should be invited to expand the scope of the demonstration projects on capacity-building for the implementation of national biosafety frameworks, to include all countries that have ratified the Protocol. Countries that have not ratified the Protocol are urged to do so.

45. As of 30 September 2002, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity had a total of 36 ratifications and 103 signatures. The entry into force of the Protocol in 2003 appears to be highly probable. According to the results of an informal survey carried out by the Netherlands during the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, it is anticipated that 66 countries will have ratified the Protocol on Biosafety by the end of December 2002 and that the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will most likely be held in 2003.

46. In collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, among other bodies, UNEP supported and participated in a number of global biosafety initiatives, including intersessional activities of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety throughout 2001 and 2002. These activities culminated in the third and final meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee, held immediately after the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which adopted 10 recommendations to be forwarded to the first Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties for its consideration. Detailed information on these issues is provided in document UNEP/GC.22/INF/17.

H. Great Apes Survival Project

47. In September 2001, the Executive Director launched the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP), responding to critical threats facing the four main types of great apes in equatorial Africa and south-east Asia – bonobos, chimpanzees, gorillas and orang-utans – and the mainly forest ecosystems on which they depend for survival.

48. From the outset of the GRASP partnership, UNEP has aimed to add value by integrating and enhancing the conservation activities of intergovernmental organizations, including the biodiversity-related conventions, ape range and donor States, and expert non-governmental bodies. There has also been an in-built focus on the twin needs to build capacity within range States to manage these vital biological resources and to link conservation to poverty-alleviation and community development. There will be an independent external review of GRASP in mid-2003. The results will be used in designing the contract arrangements for the transfer of the GRASP core unit to UNEP-WCMC at the end of the year, and in updating the strategy. For detailed information on GRASP see document UNEP/GC.22/INF/17.

I. World Conservation Monitoring Centre

49. Since 2000, the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) has been main UNEP resource centre for assessment and information on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Its current activities focus on the compilation of information, communication to policy makers and the wider public and support for the biodiversity-related conventions and their parties, particularly in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Heritage Convention. The Centre has been the overseeing contractor for work by UNEP to improve information synergies between the conventions, including the current pilot projects on the harmonization of reporting systems under the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. For background information on the UNEP-WCMC arrangement, see document UNEP/GC.22/INF/17.

50. In July 2002, the Executive Director decided to initiate a second development phase at UNEP-WCMC, through which the role of the Centre would be broadened to cover a wider range of biodiversity-related activities, including substantive programme and policy work, while maintaining the Centre's role in conservation assessment, information and monitoring. As a first step in the process, the Executive Director transferred oversight responsibility for UNEP-WCMC at UNEP headquarters to the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation

51. At its twenty-seventh session in 1959 the United Nations Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 713 (XXVII) that established a global protected areas monitoring process known as the United Nations List of National Parks and Protected Areas. Collaborative partners were UNESCO, FAO and IUCN. In 1981, WCMC (now UNEP-WCMC) was established and has prepared the United Nations List since that time, in collaboration with IUCN and the World Commission of Protected Areas (WCPA). During the period 2001-2002, UNEP-WCMC undertook a review of the World Database on Protected Areas and the United Nations List process with IUCN, WCPA and other stakeholders. It was agreed by all parties to establish a consortium of global stakeholders in the World Database on Protected Areas that will operate on agreed principles, including assistance in the procurement of funds to maintain the World Database on Protected Areas. UNEP-WCMC will be the custodian of WDPA and IUCN will prepare a memorandum of

understanding on the principles of operation of the Database as a key tool in global biodiversity monitoring to be launched at the World Parks Congress in Durban in 2003. A renewal of the 1959 United Nations mandate on the preparation of the United Nations List is sought.

J. Adaptation to climate change

52. UNEP has been implementing climate change-adaptation activities pursuant to Governing Council decision 21/9 A of 9 February 2001 on the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme (WCIRP). A new decision is now required, however, in the light of decisions by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and by the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, to make adaptation to climate change a major UNEP activity and to link it to sustainable development.

53. The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit asked for actions at all levels to support initiatives to assess the consequences of climate change. The Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted on 1 November 2002, proclaims adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change as a high priority for all countries.

54. The draft decision is expected to widen funding possibilities for current work by UNEP to provide policy tools for implementing the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol in non-Annex I Parties, by mainstreaming climate change into an environmentally sustainable development process.

55. Pursuant to decision 21/9 A of 9 February 2001, on the Climate Agenda and WCIRP, UNEP initiated its project on an assessment of the impacts of and adaptation to climate change, supporting 24 research activities in which more than 100 scientists from over 50 developing countries are participating.

K. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

56. This section contains a report on the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in keeping with Governing Council decision 21/9 B.

57. The Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was completed in 2001. The Report consists of three working group contributions, namely, "The Science of Climate Change" by Working Group I, "Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability" by Working Group II, and "Mitigation of Climate Change" by Working Group III, and a synthesis report. The reports were adopted or approved in stages during 2001. UNEP's participation in the preparation of the IPCC Third Assessment Report was more active than ever before. Staff members participated as lead authors, expert reviewers and review editors, and in one case, a convening lead author of a chapter. Through this active involvement, results of relevant UNEP projects and UNEP knowledge were reflected in the IPCC reports. UNEP staff also supported the IPCC media, information and outreach activities, including electronic publishing of IPCC reports.

58. IPCC also completed, in 2002, a *Technical Paper on Climate Change and Biological Diversity*, prepared at the request of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity to assess the linkages between climate change and biological diversity. The report thus supported the assessment needs of that Convention and was welcomed by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Both bodies have called for continued cooperation between the two, as well as with IPCC, on issues of common interest and relevance.

59. As part of its effort to disseminate the IPCC findings widely and at the same time to support the implementation of article 6 of the Convention on Climate Change, UNEP has been actively developing a project proposal for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and activities on dissemination of the IPCC

Third Assessment Report, with a view to supporting, in particular, the developing countries' efforts to implement article 6 of the Convention on Climate Change. A steering group consisting of representatives of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the secretariats of IPCC and the Convention on Climate Change was established during the seventh meeting of the Convention on Climate Change in Marrakech and UNEP took the lead, at the request of the group, in preparing a coordinated proposal in cooperation with the members of the steering group as well as with inputs from other potential partners. Fund-raising efforts are now underway.

60. Discussions on the future of IPCC and its work programme on the preparation of the Fourth Assessment Report and other special and technical reports began in the year 2001 and are continuing. A new IPCC Chairman and a new Bureau were elected in April 2002. Mr. Rajendra Pachauri of India took over the IPCC chairmanship from Mr. Robert Watson of the United States.

61. UNEP has continued to support the functioning of IPCC and its secretariat housed by WMO in Geneva. UNEP continued to contribute an annual sum of US\$ 110,000 towards the IPCC Trust Fund, mainly for covering the costs of participation of developing country experts in the meetings of IPCC. UNEP also provided the Deputy Secretary to the Secretariat at P-5 level.

62. During the year 2001 a mode of strengthening the cooperation between UNEP and WMO on IPCC matters was negotiated between the UNEP Executive Director and the WMO Secretary-General. A key issue agreed was the modalities for joint recruitment of the two professional staff of the secretariat. After the retirement of the long-serving Secretary-General, Mr. Sundararaman, in May 2002, a new Secretary-General Mr. Geoffrey Love, was recruited in accordance with the agreed modalities. UNEP has further strengthened its support to IPCC by raising the level of the Deputy Secretary-General from P-5 to D-1. Mr. Renate Christ was re-appointed as Deputy Secretary-General in accordance with the agreed modalities. Further report on the work of IPCC is provided to the Governing Council by the Chairman of IPCC.

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

63. Progress in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities has followed the recommendations and decisions provided by such instruments as Governing Council decision 21/10 of 9 February 2001; the Montreal Declaration, as contained in document UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/9, the programme of work for 2002-2006 approved at the first intergovernmental review meeting on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/6) and Governing Council decision SS.VII/6 of 15 February 2002, endorsing the 2002-2006 programme of work. Further details of these recommendations and decisions may be found in document UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.2.

64. Revitalization of the regional seas programme remains an important priority for UNEP. The regional seas programme also provides a framework for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements such as the Barbados Action Plan for Small Island Developing States, as well as the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) project. The impact of land-based activities is transmitted to the marine environment through rivers. Accordingly, UNEP has established a number of integrated coastal area and river basin management (ICARM) demonstration projects.

M. Water policy and strategy of UNEP

65. Decision 21/11 of 9 February 2001 provided strategic direction to participation by UNEP in the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development and for its contributions to the intergovernmental dialogue at the Summit itself. The twenty-first session of the UNEP Governing Council, at which the Council endorsed the water policy and strategy, also marked the second meeting of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which is primarily concerned with promoting policy coherence in the environmental field. Document UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.3 further details activities related to water policy.

66. During preparations for the Summit, UNEP supported a series of subregional and regional preparatory meetings to identify achievements, shortcomings and emerging issues relating to the components of Agenda 21. These meetings played a key role in crystallizing the views of Governments, civil society and the private sector regarding the role of UNEP in addressing the environmental aspects of water. The largest share of the UNEP-GEF portfolio falls within the international waters focal area, which provides for actions to address issues related to specific water-bodies, contaminants, and integrated land and water management. It is in this context that UNEP is implementing the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) project. GIWA will produce a comprehensive and integrated global assessment that addresses the ecological status, the causes of environmental problems and policy options to tackle the root causes of degradation. The project is mainly funded by GEF. Other donors include the Government of Sweden, the Government of Finland and the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Following the completion of the GIWA assessment report in 2004, GIWA will be continued as a regular programme supporting the UNEP water policy, by providing regular thematic assessments and early warnings on environmental issues in water bodies and aquatic ecosystems.

67. The UNEP Collaborating Centre on Water and the Environment has been established and provides strategic support for the implementation of the UNEP water policy and strategy, particularly with respect to best practices for environmentally sustainable freshwater management. This effort has been assisted by the close links between the Collaborating Centre and the Global Water Partnership (GWP). UNEP hosts the dams and development project, which was established as a follow-up to the report by the World Commission on Dams. UNEP provided significant inputs on key freshwater intergovernmental processes and coordination activities, including to the International Freshwater Conference held in Bonn, as a preparatory conference for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the World Summit itself. The year 2003 will be particularly challenging: it is not only the International Year of Freshwater, but also the year in which the Third World Water Forum will be held, in addition to the annual commemoration of World Water Day. UNEP has also provided significant input to the world water development report, which will be launched at the Third World Water Forum in March 2003.

68. The joint UNEP-United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) programme on managing water for African cities is working to tackle the urban water crisis in African cities through efficient water demand management, capacity-building and information exchange on best practices. The United Nations Foundation-supported programme is a product of the United Nations system-wide initiative on Africa.

N. Coral reefs and marine mammals

69. This section briefly summarizes UNEP activities on coral reefs undertaken pursuant to decision 21/12 of 9 February 2001. Further details may be found in document UNEP/GC.22/INF/17.

70. UNEP continues to participate actively in the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), providing support for its operations and participating with high-level representation at meetings of the ICRI Coordinating and Planning Committee.

71. Through its Coral Reef Unit, UNEP continues to give its full support to the coordination of the ICRAN project, an operational network of ICRI.

72. The start-up phase of ICRAN produced a strategic plan, published in January 2001, to guide the project activities. The action phase of ICRAN was launched on schedule in June 2001. Project implementation is well under way in all regions and by all partners. For a detailed list of outputs, see document UNEP/GC.22/INF/17.

73. With ICU in the lead and support by UNEP and other partners, major progress has been made in raising funds for ICRAN. At the ICRAN side event to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced a donation of \$1.5 million for activities on the meso-American barrier reef and, in October 2002, the Goldman Fund granted the partnership an additional \$250,000.

74. The UNEP Coral Reef Unit is actively working with some multilateral environmental agreements on harmonizing work programmes and reporting procedures between various agreement, networks and the United Nations system on the topic of coral reefs. Efforts are also being made to integrate multilateral environmental agreements more closely into ICRI. The Coral Reef Unit will be relocated at UNPE-WCMC in early 2003. Additional information on these and other activities in the implementation of decision 21/12, including outputs from ICRI, ICRAN and the Coral Reef Unit (CRU), may be found in document UNEP/GC.22/INF/17.

75. The Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals was developed between UNEP and FAO as a non-legally binding instrument to promote the effective implementation of a policy for the conservation, management and utilization of marine mammals that could be widely accepted by Governments and the public. The Plan of Action was adopted by the Governing Council in 1984 and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985. UNEP provides the secretariat for the Plan of Action, which remains the only international instrument addressing the conservation of all marine mammals at the global level.

O. Global assessment of the state of the marine environment

76. At its twenty-first session in February 2001, the UNEP Governing Council adopted decision 21/13, on a global assessment of the state of the marine environment. The United Nations General Assembly, at its fifty-seventh session, welcomed the work of UNEP in exploring the feasibility of a global marine assessment project. The Implementation Plan of the World Summit on Sustainable Development called for the establishment, by 2004, of a regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment. The implementation of decision 21/13 included an initial informal consultative meeting, held in Reykjavik from 12 to 14 September 2001. At this meeting it was agreed that a global assessment of the marine environment was both desirable and urgently needed and participants welcomed the opportunity to examine the feasibility of developing this process with all relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, the meeting recommended, among other things, that the global assessment process should be aimed at policy makers. Detailed information on the activities in the implementation of decision 21/13 and the suggested action by the Council may be found in documents UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.5 and UNEP/GC.22/INF/19.

P. Global observing systems

77. In response to Governing Council decision 21/28 of 9 February 2001, UNEP continues, together with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the International Council for Science and FAO, to co-sponsor the major global observing systems, namely, the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS). UNEP has continued to be an active participant and contributor to the steering committees and associated technical meetings and panels as appropriate, working to promote the improvement of these observation networks in partial fulfilment of its mission to keep the world environment under review.

78. UNEP provides continuing support for the operation of the respective secretariats of these systems. Memoranda of understanding are in force with each of the agencies hosting the secretariats, with UNEP allocating \$120,000 for this purpose for the biennium 2002-2003. In addition, the UNEP regional seas programme cooperates continuously with IOC-GOOS in various regions, such as the Mediterranean, the Caribbean and the north-west Pacific. Joint activities between these regional seas conventions and action plans, UNEP and IOC-GOOS, related to the monitoring and assessment of the marine environment and to the sharing and exchange of oceanographic data and information, substantially benefit the participating member States.

79. UNEP is a member of the Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS) partnership, which meets with the Committee for Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) to discuss future directions for research on the observation of earth phenomena as a means of fulfilling its assessment mission.

80. UNEP also notes with satisfaction the revitalization of the Global Environment Monitoring System on Water as a contribution to various activities relating to water management, including GIWA and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

III. SUPPORT TO AFRICA

81. Pursuant to Governing Council decision 21/15 of 9 February 2001, UNEP has undertaken various actions, including supporting Africa in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and regional agreements; in preparing for the World Summit on Sustainable Development; supporting the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN); promoting cleaner production and sustainable consumption patterns; and promoting environmental conservation. Detailed information on support to Africa may be found in document UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.4.

IV. CONTRIBUTION TO FUTURE SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

82. The tenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, which acted as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, was held in Bali, Indonesia, from 27 May to 7 June 2002. The World Summit reconfirmed the role of the Commission, as set out in General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 29 January 1993, on institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

83. In addition, the World Summit agreed, in chapter XI of its Plan of Implementation, to accord specific functions to the Commission on Sustainable Development. These are contained in paragraph 140 (f) and, in particular, in section E (paragraphs 145-150) of the above-mentioned chapter.

84. These paragraphs state:

“140. (f) Promote corporate responsibility and accountability and the exchange of best practices in the context of sustainable development, including, as appropriate, through multi-stakeholder dialogue, such as through the Commission on Sustainable Development, and other initiatives; (...)

“145. The Commission on Sustainable Development should continue to be the high-level commission on sustainable development within the United Nations system and serve as a forum for consideration of issues related to integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. Although the role, functions and mandate of the Commission as set out in relevant parts of Agenda 21 and adopted in General Assembly resolution 47/191 continue to be relevant, the Commission needs to be strengthened, taking into account the role of relevant institutions and organizations. An

enhanced role of the Commission should include reviewing and monitoring progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and fostering coherence of implementation, initiatives and partnerships.

“146. Within that context, the Commission should place more emphasis on actions that enable implementation at all levels, including promoting and facilitating partnerships involving Governments, international organizations and relevant stakeholders for the implementation of Agenda 21.

“147. The Commission should:

- “(a) Review and evaluate progress and promote further implementation of Agenda 21;
- “(b) Focus on the cross-sectoral aspects of specific sectoral issues and provide a forum for better integration of policies, including through interaction among Ministers dealing with the various dimensions and sectors of sustainable development through the high-level segments;
- “(c) Address new challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of Agenda 21;
- “(d) Focus on actions related to implementation of Agenda 21, limiting negotiations in the sessions of the Commission to every two years;
- “(e) Limit the number of themes addressed in each session.

“148. In relation to its role in facilitating implementation, the Commission should emphasize the following:

- “(a) Review progress and promote the further implementation of Agenda 21. In this context, the Commission should identify constraints on implementation and make recommendations to overcome those constraints;
- “(b) Serve as a focal point for the discussion of partnerships that promote sustainable development, including sharing lessons learned, progress made and best practices;
- “(c) Review issues related to financial assistance and transfer of technology for sustainable development, as well as capacity-building, while making full use of existing information. In this regard, the Commission on Sustainable Development could give consideration to more effective use of national reports and regional experience and to this end make appropriate recommendations;
- “(d) Provide a forum for analysis and exchange of experience on measures that assist sustainable development planning, decision-making and the implementation of sustainable development strategies. In this regard, the Commission could give consideration to more effective use of national and regional reports;
- “(e) Take into account significant legal developments in the field of sustainable development, with due regard to the role of relevant intergovernmental bodies in promoting the implementation of Agenda 21 relating to international legal instruments and mechanisms.

“149. With regard to the practical modalities and programme of work of the Commission, specific decisions on those issues should be taken by the Commission at its next session, when the Commission’s thematic work programme will be elaborated. In particular, the following issues should be considered:

- “(a) Giving a balanced consideration to implementation of all of the mandates of the Commission contained in General Assembly resolution 47/191;
- “(b) Continuing to provide for more direct and substantive involvement of international organizations and major groups in the work of the Commission;
- “(c) Give greater consideration to the scientific contributions to sustainable development through, for example, drawing on the scientific community and encouraging national, regional and international scientific networks to be involved in the Commission;
- “(d) Furthering the contribution of educators to sustainable development, including, where appropriate, in the activities of the Commission;
- “(e) The scheduling and duration of intersessional meetings.

“150. Undertake further measures to promote best practices and lessons learned in sustainable development, and in addition promote the use of contemporary methods of data collection and dissemination, including broader use of information technologies.

85. Given that the Commission currently has no bureau, and that a number of organizational aspects need to be dealt with, in the light of the outcome of the World Summit, it is expected that an organizational meeting will be held on 27 January 2003, at which a bureau will be elected in order to facilitate preparations for the Commission’s eleventh session. The eleventh session is expected to take place from 28 April to 9 May 2003.

86. Negotiations are currently under way in the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on a draft resolution on the World Summit on Sustainable Development, paragraphs 5 and 6 of which request the Economic and Social Council to ensure that the Commission holds an organizational session early in 2003, and request the Secretary-General to prepare a report containing proposals on the modalities of the Commission’s future work, taking into account the outcome of the World Summit. Paragraph 7 of the draft resolution also requests the Secretary-General to take into full account the contents of chapter XI of the Plan of Implementation. It should be noted that the draft resolution is still under negotiation and that the current text is expected to be amended. There is, for example, a divergence of opinion as to whether the report of the Secretary-General should be available for discussion at the organizational session or if the issues of the Commission’s future programme of work should rather be taken up at the eleventh regular session.

87. It is the practice of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to provide inputs to the Commission on Sustainable Development, particularly on the environmental dimension of sustainable development and the linkages between environment and development, such as, for example, in decision SS.V/3 of 22 May 1998, on the contribution of UNEP to the Commission at its seventh session. Bearing in mind that practice and recalling that the relationship between UNEP and the Commission on Sustainable Development has already been considered in Governing Council decisions 18/7 of 26 May 1995 and 20/19 of 5 February 1999, no changes are expected in this prevailing relationship at the twenty-second session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. In this regard the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum may wish to evaluate the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and extract therefrom all relevant paragraphs related to the environmental dimension of sustainable development, as well as actions and targets set that are to be pursued through the UNEP programme of work, and inform the Commission on Sustainable Development accordingly.

88. Further bearing in mind that the way the Commission operates at its 2004 session and beyond may differ from its previous mode of operation, the input from the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to the Commission at its twelfth session may have to be redefined at the Government Council’s eighth special session.

V. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

89. The Governing Council may wish to consider the adoption of decisions along the lines suggested below.

A. Sustainable development of the Arctic

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the increasing global importance of the Arctic in a global environmental context,

Noting with satisfaction the inclusion of Arctic concerns in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,² especially those dealing with other pollutants, ocean issues, as well as sustainable use of the eradication of poverty among indigenous communities, the impact of climate change, actions to reduce persistent organic pollutants and natural resources,

Recognizing the important work of the Arctic Council to protect the environment and support sustainable development in the Arctic,

1. Welcomes the global assessment by the United Nations Environment Programme of mercury and persistent organic pollutants and the third Global Environment Outlook report;
2. Also welcomes work by the Global Resource Information Database at Arendal, the key polar centre of the United Nations Environment Programme, on preparation of information and awareness material on environment and sustainable development issues in the Arctic, in particular that relate to health and environment for indigenous people, prepared in cooperation with the World Health Organization;
3. Encourages continued cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Arctic Council, Arctic parliamentarians, Arctic indigenous peoples and the private sector and welcomes the cooperative agreement between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Arctic University and the role of United Nations Environment Programme as an implementing agency for the Global Environment Facility-funded portfolio of projects addressing water, climate change, biological diversity and pollution in the Arctic;
4. Requests the Executive Director to continue cooperation with the World Health Organization on an assessment of the health and environment situation of Arctic indigenous peoples and to submit a report thereon to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session;
5. Further requests the Executive Director to provide continuous assessments and early warning on emerging issues related to the Arctic environment, in particular its impact on the global environment, and to report thereon to the Council at its twenty-third session, including policy recommendations and a plan for furthering United Nations Environment Programme activities in the Arctic.

B. Asian brown cloud

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 55/2 of 8 September 2000 and 56/12 of 28 November 2001 and Governing Council decisions 20/1 of 4 February 1999 and SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002,

Taking note of the provisions contained in paragraph 103 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,¹ on the need to improve policy and decision-making at all

levels through, among other measures, improved collaboration between natural and social scientists, and between scientists and policy makers, including through greater use of integrated scientific assessments,

Having considered the study on local and regional impacts of particulates and aerosol pollution on human health, agriculture and climate, in collaboration with the science team associated with the Indian Ocean Experiment initiative,³

1. Welcomes the substantive contribution from scientists and institutions involved in the study, and the financial support from Governments and private foundations;
2. Requests the Executive Director to develop further the assessment, with a view, among other objectives, to studying the long-term nature and impacts of Asian brown cloud, to assessing the possible global implications of particulates and aerosol pollution and to identifying options for policy responses, including capacity-building needs, in cooperation with all relevant national and international scientific processes and institutions;
3. Further requests the Executive Director to report on the outcome of the assessment to the Governing Council, through the Intergovernmental Panel on Global Environmental Change.

C. Chemicals

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

The Governing Council,

Recalling chapter 19 of Agenda 21⁴ and its decisions 18/12 of 26 May 1995, 19/13 A of 7 February 1997, SS.V/5 of 22 May 1998, 20/22 of 4 February 1999, 21/3 of 9 February 2001 and SS.VII/3 of 15 February 2002,

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

Welcoming the progress in ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Convention,

1. Calls upon States and regional economic integration organizations entitled to do so to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, with a view to its entry into force by 2003 as called for in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
2. Also calls upon States and regional economic integration organizations to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the United Nations Environment Programme to support the interim arrangements and the operation of the Conference of the Parties until the end of the fiscal year in which the first meeting of the Conference of Parties takes place, and to ensure the full and effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the further work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;
3. Requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to continue to promote cooperation between the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention and the secretariats of other relevant conventions.

2. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 18/32 of 25 May 1995, 19/13 C of 7 February 1997, 20/24 of 4 February 1999 and 21/4 of 9 February 2001 on persistent organic pollutants,

Considering the call for ratification of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, to ensure that it enters into force by 2004, as envisaged in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,¹

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international action to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants⁵;

1. Welcomes the adoption of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, which took place on 22 May 2002 at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries convened for that purpose in Stockholm;

2. Takes note of the 151 Governments that signed the Stockholm Convention prior to the close of the signature period on 21 May 2002;

3. Encourages countries and regional economic integration organizations to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Convention, with a view to its entry into force by 2004, as called for in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;¹

4. Authorizes the continued participation of the United Nations Environment Programme secretariat in an interim secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, as requested by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, and its participation in a secretariat of the Convention, provided that such arrangements are satisfactory to the Executive Director and that costs are met through extrabudgetary resources;

5. Requests the Executive Director to continue to promote full cooperation between such a secretariat and the secretariats of other relevant conventions, in particular with respect to the development of support to Governments in developing implementation plans;

6. Welcomes the decision of the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility of October 2002 to establish a new focal area for the implementation of activities relating to the Stockholm Convention and the actions of the Global Environment Facility to fund as enabling activities the development of the national implementation plans required under the Convention;

7. Urges the Executive Director, through the interim secretariat of the Convention, to continue to assist in the implementation of relevant resolutions of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and to assist in the implementation of the decisions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the Stockholm Convention at its sixth session in June 2002, with a view to facilitating capacity-building, the early entry into force, financing and preparations for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

8. Invites the Executive Director to take further actions to facilitate voluntary implementation of the Convention prior to its entry into force, if such action is called for by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

9. Appeals to Governments, as well as to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to provide sufficient financial resources for the implementation of interim arrangements for the Convention prior to the first session of its Conference of the Parties, including funding of the activities of the interim secretariat of the Convention;

10. Requests the Executive Director to continue taking actions as requested by the Governing Council in its decision 19/13 C of 7 February 1997, including the immediate actions identified in paragraph 13 of that decision;

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

D. Adaptation to climate change

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 21/9 A of February 2002, 16/41 IV of 31 May 1991, on the World Climate Programme, and 17/24 C of 21 May 1993 and 18/20 A of 26 May 1995 on the Climate Agenda,

Noting paragraph 13 of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,² which states that the adverse effects of climate change are already evident, natural disasters are more frequent and more devastating and developing countries more vulnerable,

Noting paragraph (e) of the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development,⁶ which states that developing countries are particularly vulnerable, especially the least developed countries and small island developing States; that adaptation requires urgent attention and action on the part of all countries and that effective and result-based measures should be supported for the development of approaches at all levels on vulnerability and adaptation, as well as capacity-building for the integration of adaptation concerns into sustainable development strategies,

Recognizing the third assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which states that, while climate change will have global impacts, poor countries and poor people will be most vulnerable because of their high dependence on natural resources that are directly affected by climate change,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director⁷ on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of climate especially related to the implementation of Governing Council decision 21/9 of 9 February 2001, regarding the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director and requests the United Nations Environment Programme to continue its activities related to climate impact assessment and response strategies in partnership with the other agencies collaborating in the Climate Agenda;

2. Commends the exemplary collaboration exhibited in the implementation of the adaptation to climate change projects funded by the Global Environment Facility;

3. Requests the Executive Director to campaign for technical assistance to developing countries, to enable them to implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

4. Urges the Executive Director to enhance technical and policy support to facilitate cost-effective adaptation to climate change in developing countries considered vulnerable to climate change, in particular the least developed countries.

E. Coral reefs

The Governing Council,

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

Recalling in particular its decision 21/12 of 9 February 2000,

Concerned over the slow rate of recovery on many of the worlds most damaged coral reefs, from both anthropogenic and natural impacts, and the continued decline in coral reef health and their vulnerable state as a result of human activities,

Anxious to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme makes optimal use of its scientific and technical resources in coral reef work,

Recognizing the progress made in strengthening the International Coral Reef Action Network partnership, and its initial progress in implementing coral reef management action since the main phase of the project commenced in June 2001,

Noting with approval that the expansion of the International Coral Reef Action Network as a type two partnership to embrace the Arabian and South Asian Seas was announced during the World Summit of Sustainable Development,

Considering that the success of the International Coral Reef Action Network relies on a close working relationship and lasting cooperation with civil society, particularly the tourism and fisheries industries,

Noting that many Governing Council member countries are parties to multilateral environmental agreements as well as to the International Coral Reef Initiative, and recognizing the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting coordination of work programmes related to coral reefs under these agreements,

1. Requests the Executive Director to provide continued support to the International Coral Reef Action Network as a World Summit on Sustainable Development partnership, including the implementation of its expansion to all tropical seas containing coral communities, and the participation of industries dependent on coral reefs in the International Coral Reef Action Network partnership;
2. Welcomes the growing role of the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre as a centre of excellence for coral reefs, hosting the United Nations Environment Programme Coral Reef Unit and maintaining its supporting role in the Coordination Unit for the International Coral Reef Action Network;
3. Requests the Executive Director to assist Governments and other relevant bodies in strengthening the effectiveness of the International Coral Reef Initiative;
4. Supports the realization of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in respect to coral reefs through active intervention, including encouraging multilateral environmental agreements to strengthen and coordinate efforts on conservation and sustainable utilization of coral reef resources;
5. Extends the scope of decision 21/12 to cover the period 2003-2004;
6. Requests the Executive Director to submit a progress report on the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session.

F. United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the longstanding relationship and cooperation on biodiversity assessment and information work between United Nations Environment Programme, the biodiversity-related conventions (particularly the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the World Heritage Convention) and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge which was initially under tripartite United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Union -World Wide Fund for Nature sponsorship between 1988 and 2000,

Noting with satisfaction the successful integration of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre into the United Nations Environment Programme's biodiversity-related activities since the Centre's change of status in June 2000 to that of a specialist biodiversity assessment and information centre of the United Nations Environment Programme ("UNEP-WCMC"), and the fact that the Centre derives the majority of its revenue from non-United Nations Environment Programme sources,

Supporting the Executive Director's policy of broadening the Centre's role to provide a comprehensive range of biodiversity-related services to the United Nations Environment Programme, the biodiversity-related conventions and their constituent party States, and other bodies in the non-governmental and private sectors,

Noting with approval the review by the Centre, the World Conservation Union-World Commission on Protected Areas and other stakeholders of the World Database of Protected Areas and of the process for maintaining and updating the United Nations List of National Parks and Protected Areas,

Agreeing that the United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution of 1959, subsequently endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1962 needs to be renewed and updated,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue to support the development of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, including its work in monitoring progress towards meeting biodiversity-related objectives set by the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
2. Requests the Executive Director to establish a network of collaborating centres in developing country regions to cooperate with the Centre and to assist them in undertaking relevant parts of their work programme;
3. Endorses the strengthening of the World Database on Protected Areas; establishment of a global consortium; and the strengthening of the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Conservation Union on global protected area issues through a specific memorandum of understanding;
4. Requests the Executive Director, working in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to seek a renewed mandate for the United Nations List process from the United Nations Economic and Social Council/United Nations General Assembly that reflects the role of United Nations Environment Programme and its agreement with the World Conservation Union on new partnership arrangements for the World Database on Protected Areas.

Notes

¹ FAO, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), UNEP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and research (UNITAR) and WHO.

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

³ UNEP/GC.22/INF/32.

⁴ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

⁵ UNEP/GC.22/2.

⁶ Eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, New Delhi, 23 October-1 November 2002.

⁷ See documents UNEP /GC.22/2 and UNEP/GC.22/INF/26.