

**Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the
Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the
Further implementation of Agenda 21**

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INTRODUCTION

1. Agenda 21 addresses major problems of today's world and guides the global community to prepare for the challenges of the new century. As the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment, UNEP contributes to the implementation of Agenda 21 by catalyzing environmental actions at all levels, by assisting Governments through partnership with other organizations and various stakeholders.

2. In accordance with the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme¹, UNEP takes 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 (UNCED) and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the Assembly.

3. The Governing Council, in its decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, sharpened the focus of UNEP's activities by identifying the following areas of concentration for the activities of the Organization:

- (a) Environmental information, assessment and research, including environmental emergency response capacity and strengthening of the early warning and assessment functions of UNEP;
- (b) Enhanced coordination of environmental conventions and development of environmental policy instruments;
- (c) Freshwater;
- (d) Technology transfer and industry;
- (e) Support to Africa.

4. The programme of work of UNEP is developed in conformity with the Nairobi Declaration and the above-mentioned concentration areas, and fully incorporates the activities envisaged in Agenda 21. The current programme of work of UNEP for the biennium 2000-2001 is composed of seven subprogrammes. They are:

- (a) Environmental assessment and early warning;
- (b) Policy development and law;
- (c) Policy implementation;
- (d) Technology, industry and economics;
- (e) Regional cooperation and representation;
- (f) Environmental conventions; and
- (g) Communications and public information.

5. Each of these subprogrammes has multifaceted programme components to cover sectoral and cross-sectoral issues, contributing to the implementation of various chapters of Agenda 21 simultaneously.

6. This report presents, its part I, a summary of the activities of UNEP contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, which have been carried out since the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly. It is followed by Part II that briefly describes measures that are designed to accelerate the contribution to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. Part III lists constraints and identifies ways and means to address them.

¹ Governing Council decision 19/1 of 7 February 1997.

I. ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21 AND THE PROGRAMME FOR THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

7. The activities of UNEP contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21 through its core functions as identified in the above-mentioned mandate. Its activities concerning environmental assessment, information and early warning, including tasks related to environmental disasters, provide basis for actions for all chapters of Agenda 21. Other functions of UNEP relate to various aspects of sectoral and cross-sectoral issues identified in Agenda 21. Highlights of recent relevant activities are presented below.

Environmental assessment, information and early warning

8. A number of new initiatives and developments in UNEP have taken place over the last few years. UNEP, as stipulated in the Nairobi Declaration, has strengthened a core element of its programme, its information, monitoring and assessment functions. Through these functions, UNEP continued to build the scientific knowledge basis for environmental actions and decision-making by all actors to implement Agenda 21. These tasks are carried out at national and global levels by supporting networking, coordination and institution building of key centres to improve information management and national and regional environmental assessments. The key centres will be incorporated into the global-state-of-the-environment processes. By promoting improved communication and networking technologies, UNEP facilitates the access by governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to unique sources of data and information. UNEP also catalyses and makes use of targeted scientific research towards improved environmental information management in decision-making.

9. UNEP's assessment capacity has been strengthened through the initiation of the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) as the main assessment mechanism to analyze current problems, including their root causes, and develop scenarios for the future condition of the world's water resources. GIWA will provide the necessary information to identify areas of global priority for

intervention, and addresses both global and regional topics, with the focus on freshwater shortages, pollution, habitat and community modification, unsustainable exploitation of fisheries and other marine living resources, and climate change.

10. Furthermore, through the transformation of the World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (WCMC) into the UNEP's Global Biodiversity Information and Assessment Centre, UNEP strengthened its capacity in assessing global environment as well as in supporting countries to handle information for decisions related to sustainable development.

11. UNEP has kept the state of the world's environment under review through global and regional state-of-the-environment reports. UNEP successfully launched the second Global Environment Outlook-GEO 2000 in September, and its youth version entitled *Pachamama – Our Earth, Our Future* in October 1999. UNEP has begun preparation of the third GEO report (GEO-3) to be published in 2002. GEO-3 will provide a major input to the ten-year review of UNCED as a definitive assessment of the global environment. The GEO-3 process will gather and synthesize the knowledge of more than 850 people in 35 institutions around the world. On that basis, GEO-3 will provide a 30-year retrospective and 30-year forward looking perspective, and aim to reframe the way the international community understands and responds to the environment in the new millennium.

12. UNEP continued to provide policy makers with early warning and information on emerging issues and environmental threats in order to facilitate the policy dialogues on such issues and to promote the development of impact reduction strategies. 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.

13. Provision of information for decision-making in the field of environment is one of the core functions of UNEP. Activities in this field are carried

out with the worldwide network of partners for environmental assessment and information. UNEP's global environmental information exchange network, INFOTERRA, promotes the public's access to environmental information. It is being reformed with a view to ensuring better public access to environmental information and for the purpose of increasing the capacity of the public to participate in environmental decision-making. Part of its activities are focused on specific subject areas, such as the information exchange on hazardous chemicals through the prior informed consent procedure jointly implemented by UNEP and FAO. Communication and public information is an integral part of all the activities and programmes of UNEP.

Environmental emergencies

14. UNEP has strengthened its environmental expertise to further improve its participation in the coordinated responses of the United Nations system to disasters caused by natural phenomena, natural phenomena coupled with the effects of human activities, or man-made disasters. UNEP has been developing core response services and capacities, including brokerage and clearing house functions, establishing a global network of officially designated National Focal Points, improving the standard notification /request form for assistance, and finalizing *Practical Considerations for Developing National Environmental Emergency Response Mechanisms*. There has been a considerable increase in requests for assistance. UNEP has provided or facilitated different types of assistance, depending on the specific situations and national requests as follows:

- (a) Assessment, through a joint UNEP/UNCHS (Habitat) Balkans Task Force, of the impacts on the environment and human settlements from the conflict in the Balkans since May 1999, which was presented in a report *The Kosovo Conflict, Consequences for the Environment & Human Settlements* published in September 1999. As Phase 2 of the activities of the Task Force, a group of international experts has been conducting feasibility studies on specific activities and technical requirements on the identified four "hot spots" since February 2000 for a four-month period
- (b) Evaluation, throughout 1999, of the environmental impacts of the floods of the Yangtze River in China that occurred in 1998 and their contributing factors, as well as to identify and build capacity for measures for flood mitigation and management.
- (c) Assessments of the environmental impacts of the spill of liquid and suspended waste containing cyanide and heavy metals from a gold mine in Romania as assistance to Romania, Hungary and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 26 February to 5 March 2000, resulted in the recommendations on response activities, better accident prevention and preparedness and on possible international assistance.
- (d) Assessment of the implications of earthquakes in Turkey in December 1999 on the environment and human settlements.
- (e) Assessment of the impact of the floods on the environment and human settlements in Mozambique in March/April 2000, resulting in the recommendations on measures for mitigation and preparedness for future floods as well as seven project proposals for short-term rehabilitation as well as for medium- and long-term mitigation and preparedness.
- (f) Collaboration with ECLAC and UNDP to carry out a preliminary socio-economic-environmental assessment of the damage caused by floods and landslides in Venezuela, which occurred in December 1999.

15. In the UNEP's programme *Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL)*, which aims at promoting the prevention of industrial accidents and preparation of emergency response plans, the following activities have been carried out: launching of APELL in Africa and its introduction at cleaner production seminars in China, Bahrain and Tunisia; strengthening APELL network links in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Madagascar, Thailand and Turkey; signing of a formal agreement with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre in Bangkok; and holding a special seminar in London on the potential contribution of the insurance industry to improve safety at mine sites.

A. SECTORAL-ISSUES

16. The sectoral issues covered by Section II of Agenda 21 entitled "Conservation and management of resources for development" are of direct relevance to the activities of UNEP, where UNEP contributes to the implementation of Agenda 21 through its regular programme of work. UNEP is the Task Manager for chapter 9 "Atmosphere", chapter 12 "Combating desertification and drought", chapter 15 "Conservation of biological diversity", chapter 17 "Protection of oceans, seas and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources", chapter 19 "Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals", and chapter 20 "Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes". Recently, UNEP's contribution has been significant in the field of water, covering both oceans and seas and freshwater, and in the field of chemicals (see below).

Atmosphere

17. In support of the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, UNEP provided targeted information as part of its mandate to act as an information clearing-house for the Protocol. It included operating eight regional networks for ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS) officers (2 Africa, 2 Latin-America, 1 Caribbean, 1 South-Asia, 1 South-East Asia and Pacific, 1 West-Asia) who organize regional training workshops on the establishment and enforcement of import and export licensing systems for ODSs; conducting country programmes and institution-strengthening projects, thus supporting countries to successfully undertake national phase-out activities and implement their country programmes; assisting 85 low-volume consuming countries (LVCs) in the preparation and implementation of their country programmes; assisting LVCs in phasing out the use of ODS in refrigeration, in cooperation with UNDP, Canada, Finland, France, Germany and Japan; helping 15 countries to formulate and 45 countries to implement Refrigerant Management Plans (RMPs); and assisting twenty countries with economies in transition in their efforts to comply with the track and licensing provisions of the Montreal Protocol and prevent illegal trade in ODSs with support from GEF. The same approach is taken by country programmes and institution-strengthening projects. In addition,

eleven training projects have been developed that include special training for customs officers and technicians. In Africa, National Ozone Units in 40 African countries have been networked through two regional networks to facilitate implementation of the Montreal Protocol. These National Ozone Units met twice in 1999 to share their experiences and promote regional cooperation. They are also supported by the Multilateral Fund in implementing Institutional Strengthening Projects.

18. Under the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol UNEP implemented its activities in 1999 to enable developing countries to comply with the provisions of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete Ozone Layer. Activities included the release of OASIS (OzonAction Information Strategic Information Services), 4 more country programmes (bringing the total to 80), four more Institutional Strengthening Projects (bringing the total to 75), and Policy Training Projects for Methyl Bromide and Monitoring of Ozone Depleting Substances. The Work Program of 1999 totalled US\$ 10.5 million, consisting of \$ 7 million from the Multilateral Fund, \$ 1.5 million from bilaterals and \$ 2 million from the GEF.

19. UNEP has provided legal assistance to the secretariat of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) for the development of a regional legal framework on transboundary air pollution, especially from haze and forest fires. In August 1999, UNEP in collaboration with the ASEAN secretariat prepared the terms of reference of a feasibility study for a single ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution. The document was presented to and endorsed by the fourteenth Meeting of the Haze Technical Task Force and the eighth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Haze.

Forests

20. During 1999, as the lead agency within the Interagency Task Force on Forests, UNEP continued to facilitate the implementation of proposals of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF). It assisted and co-sponsored various government-led initiatives in support to the programme of work of the IPF/IFF, including: a joint NGOs/Costa Rica Global Workshop on Underlying Causes on Deforestation (San Jose, Costa Rica, January 1999); an International Experts Meeting on Forest Protected Areas, co-sponsored by the

Governments of Brazil and the United States of America (Puerto Rico, March 1999); and an International Expert Meeting on the Needs and Requirements of Countries with Low Forest Cover, co-sponsored by the Government of Iran (Tehran, October 1999). Support to the Secretariat of the IPF/IFF continued through the secondment of its senior staff member. UNEP participated actively in the fourth session of the IFF (January/February 2000). A Position paper of UNEP on forest-related issues was prepared in March 2000 and is currently under review within the UNEP Secretariat.

Desertification and drought

21. UNEP further contributed to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, through the Success Stories and Saving the Drylands Awards programme. This programme has helped raise awareness and promote exchange of information on replicable best practices in sustainable land-use and management and community participation.

22. In support of Africa, UNEP organized the African Regional Preparatory Conference for the COP3 of the Convention to Combat Desertification, in Nairobi from 27 September to 1 October 1999. The meeting addressed a review of the implementation of the Convention in affected African countries, experiences gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes, environmental policies and strategies.

23. 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 inter-linkages between and amongst the respective UNEP policy elements relating to land, water, climate, biodiversity, industry, chemicals, technology, legal, economic and other instruments. Necessary consultations with governments, other partners and stakeholders will be continued during the year 2000.

24. UNEP/Habitat Water for African Cities project. This project has two components: water demand management, and mitigating effects of urbanization on water resources and aquatic systems. Strategies for managing groundwater resources will be prepared for Lusaka and Addis

Ababa. A river basin management strategy will be prepared for the Klip and Juskei rivers for Johannesburg.

Biological Diversity and Biotechnology

25. UNEP provided substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the development of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (adopted in Montreal in January 2000). During the negotiating process, UNEP, as part of its activities to support Africa, organized the AMCEN Consultations on Biosafety Negotiations in Nairobi in January and in August 1999 respectively.

26. The UNEP/GEF Pilot Biosafety Enabling Activity Project has been implemented at the national level for the preparation of National Biosafety Frameworks using the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology as a guide. 18 countries were supported (Bolivia, Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Egypt, Hungary, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia). Also, eight Regional Workshops on Biosafety were organized in the following regions: Africa (Nairobi, Kenya), Asia/Pacific (New Delhi, India), Central/Eastern Europe (Bled, Slovenia), and Latin America and the Caribbean (Havana, Cuba). The Workshops covered capacity-building requirements to enhance safety in biotechnology in respect of issues related to risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms (LMOs), including their environmental impact assessment, for enhancement of biosafety; and addressed issues related to transboundary transfer of LMOs, including appropriate mechanisms and modalities for supply and exchange of information. In cooperation with partner agencies, UNEP supported three training workshops held in Kenya, Benin and Zimbabwe, on conservation and use of genetic resources, in which a total of almost 60 participants were trained;

27. As part of its on-going activities to promote the synergy among the biological diversity-related conventions, UNEP published in early 2000 a *Handbook on the Implementation of Conventions Related to Biological Diversity in Africa*, which will be a useful tool for promoting

harmonized implementation of relevant environmental conventions in Africa.

Oceans and seas

28. The successful revitalization of the regional seas programme is one of the important achievement of UNEP. In order to promote collaboration among regional seas conventions and actions plans, UNEP convened and provided substantive inputs to the Second Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, in The Hague in July 1999, attended by the secretariats of fourteen regional sea conventions and action plans, seven global conventions and related international agreements. As a follow-up to the Hague meeting, strategic programmatic support was provided by UNEP to the workplans of several regional seas conventions and action plans, particularly in areas such as the GPA, International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and integrated coastal area management (ICAM) that interface with the priorities of UNEP's programme of work.

29. UNEP provided assistance to the Parties to the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the East African Region (Nairobi Convention) in convening the second meeting of the Parties in Port Luis, Mauritius in November 1999, and to the Parties to the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central Africa Region (Abidjan Convention) in convening the fifth meeting of the Parties in Accra, Ghana in March 2000, thereby assisting the respective Parties in their efforts to undertake urgent measures required to revitalize these conventions. In this regard, UNEP prepared a strategy paper entitled *Vitalization of the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions: Proposals, Including Elements for a New Programme*, and presented it to the above meetings of the Parties to those Conventions. UNEP is in the process of establishing the Joint Umbrella Mechanism of the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions at the UNEP headquarters that is expected to be operational by the middle of 2000. In addition, UNEP is actively supporting twinning (horizontal cooperation) the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention) and the Abidjan Convention and from the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area to the Nairobi Convention. The twinning arrangement between the Baltic Marine Environment Commission and

the UNEP Regional Seas Programme for East Africa will be signed at the Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Malmö in May 2000.

30. UNEP continued to support relevant governments in the further development of regional seas conventions and action plans, including the following:

- (a) The Protocol on Land-based activities to the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (adopted in Oranjestad, Aruba, October 1999);
- (b) A draft convention and draft action plan for the Northeast Pacific, which will be presented in May 2000 to a Meeting of High-level Government-designated Experts to be hosted by the Government of Panama.
- (c) The procedures for the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) for the Northwest Pacific, in support to the member States of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), which were adopted by the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting of the NOWPAP held in Incheon, the Republic of Korea in March 2000.

31. Through the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), UNEP further contributed to achieving the objectives of the Regional Seas Conventions and related action plans as well as relevant global conventions, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The UNEP/GPA Coordination Office was fully established and staffed in The Hague in August 1999. UNEP concluded the first phase of the GPA clearing-house. It includes the launching of the central node in September 1999 and development of other nodes focusing on the pollutant source categories, in cooperation with the respective lead agencies, namely WHO, IMO, FAO, and IAEA. UNEP finalized and initiated the GPA strategic action plan for municipal wastewater. A major component of this action plan with regard to river basins is a Recommended Framework for Decision Making that is being developed as a guide for local and national decision makers and professionals, on appropriate and environmentally sound waste waster management systems. UNEP has been exploring the feasibility

of convening a series of regionally based meetings on strategic action plans as a response to a global conference to address sewage as a major land-based source of pollution affecting human and ecosystem health.

32. Assistance was provided to Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to prepare national action programmes on land based activities. A regional programme on actions on land-based activities is being prepared for the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden in cooperation with Regional Organization for Conservation of Marine Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

Freshwater

33. Freshwater is one of the most critical environmental issues facing the planet at the start of the 21st century, as identified in a number of fora and publications, including UNEP's Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) report. At its last session, the UNEP Governing Council agreed that UNEP should play a vital role in addressing freshwater issues. Building on the Nairobi Declaration on the role and mandate of UNEP and other Governing Council decisions, the new UNEP water policy and strategy will make a significant contribution to finding appropriate solutions for these problems, *inter alia* through:

- (a) Filling the information and knowledge gap on critical freshwater issues, especially through GEO reporting and GIWA activities (see paragraph 17 above);
- (b) Providing or supporting fora for intergovernmental policy dialogue on issues relating to the environmental aspects of freshwater;
- (c) Reviewing policy responses to existing and emerging issues;
- (d) Promoting the use of integrated policy measures and instruments in tackling the root causes of major freshwater concerns;
- (e) Stimulating co-operative actions to respond to the increasing challenges to freshwater management; and
- (f) Strengthening consultations, co-ordination and networking with various stakeholders.

34. UNEP's collaboration with the other GEF implementing agencies in international waters projects was significantly strengthened. 55 international waters projects are under implementation or preparation with GEF funding as a result of request from over 130 countries. They range from river basins such as the Danube, Mekong, Okavango, Senegal river basin, Volta river basin and the Upper Paraguay River to shared lake basins such as Malawi, Ohrid, Titicaca, and Victoria. These global efforts have enhanced co-operation between and amongst the GEF implementing agencies.

35. UNEP's new water policy sets goals that cut across sectoral and administrative boundaries. It focuses on three key areas - assessment, management and coordination. The new UNEP water policy and strategy will make a significant contribution to finding appropriate solutions for these problems, *inter alia* through: filling the information and knowledge gap on critical freshwater issues, especially through GEO reporting and GIWA activities; providing or supporting fora for intergovernmental policy; reviewing policy responses to existing and emerging issues; promoting the use of integrated policy measures and instruments in tackling the root causes of major freshwater concerns; stimulating co-operative actions to respond to the increasing challenges to freshwater management; and strengthening consultations, co-ordination and networking with various stakeholders.

36. In view of the rapid industrialization and population growth, UNEP is participating in the on-going global debate on the management of groundwater, on international aquifers, on water and small island states, on water and dams, on desalination of water, on water for mega-cities as well as on water demand management challenges. The question of public and private sector partnership continuous to be a matter of increasing debate in the water and sanitation sector worldwide. In this regard, UNEP is participating in the discussions within the World Water Council. A working group is considering the feasibility of setting up a world water fund.

37. With regard to river basin management, UNEP, in cooperation with the regional activity centre of the Mediterranean Action Plan, developed and published the Conceptual Framework and Planning Guidelines for Integrated River Basin and

Coastal Area Management. It provides information as to how one can benefit from combining the management efforts between coastal areas and river basins, and presents procedures as to how management activities can be initiated under this concept. A demonstration project has been implemented in the Cetina River basin and associated coastal areas (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina). In the first phase, an environmental and socio-economic profile of the respective area was prepared.

38. UNEP has continued to implement a shared basin management at Lake Xingkai/Khanka (China/Russian Federation border), partly funded by the Government of Japan. This project, in particular, is for the conservation of habitat for migratory birds and wetlands protection through assessment and diagnostic studies on major environmental issues and threats. The report of the outcome of this project is being finalized.

39. With regard to river basin management, UNEP, in cooperation with the regional activity centre of the Mediterranean Action Plan, developed and published the Conceptual Framework and Planning Guidelines for Integrated River Basin and Coastal Area Management. It provides information as to how one can benefit from combining the management efforts between coastal areas and river basins, and presents procedures as to how management activities can be initiated under this concept. A demonstration project has been implemented in the Cetina River basin and associated coastal areas (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina). In the first phase, an environmental and socio-economic profile of the respective area was prepared.

Chemicals

40. UNEP continued to play a lead role in supporting chemicals-assessment-related activities as well as chemicals management issues, in partnership with Governments and United Nations bodies and agencies and other organizations.

41. Pursuant to chapter 19 of Agenda 21, and under the auspices of UNEP and FAO, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade was adopted in Rotterdam in September 1998, two years earlier than the target set out in chapter 19. UNEP, together with FAO, provides the interim secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention. In this capacity, the Executive Director, together with the

Director-General of FAO, convened the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (INC/PIC) in Rome in July 1999, which took decisions, *inter alia*, on interim arrangements. In February 2000, UNEP and FAO convened the Interim Chemicals Review Committee, established by the INC/PIC, in Geneva. UNEP continued implementing the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure jointly with FAO.

42. UNEP continue to assist governments in the development of a global legally binding instrument on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) through an intergovernmental negotiating committee convened by UNEP (the third session, Geneva September 1999, fourth session Bonn, March 2000). At the fourth round of negotiations, extensive discussions laid the basis for deciding on technical and financial assistance at the final round of negotiations, due to be held in Johannesburg in December 2000. Experience with financial mechanisms under other conventions and protocols is an important issue in these deliberations.

43. In 1998, a number of immediate actions were initiated and carried out to promote and facilitate information development and exchange on POPs and their management. A worldwide network of national experts designated as focal points for POPs has been established.. A database with information on POPs alternatives has been developed and made accessible via the UNEP POPs Homepage.

44. In 1999, UNEP developed the first inventory of worldwide capacity for destruction and disposal of PCBs. It gives government and others responsible for managing PCB wastes a valuable guide for identifying facilities in all parts of the world. Also, a UNEP report on dioxin and furan inventories was issued in 1999. To assist countries and regions in dealing with health and environmental effects from releases and emissions of persistent organic pollutants that might vary by region, UNEP in the first half of 2000 starts carrying out a project entitled Regionally Based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances, with the funding from the Global Environment Facility. This project will contribute to GEF priority setting and serve to guide international action to protect human health and the environment from persistent toxic substances.

45. UNEP is conducting more than 50 capacity building regional and sub-regional workshops in 2000-2001 to promote the environmentally sound management of chemicals, in particular certain persistent organic pollutants, with the substantial financial support from the United States of America. Work has been underway to establish Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers in Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

46. 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. An important first step was taken in March 2000 through a WHO-convened Regional Consultation to Prepare African Countries Towards Reduction of Reliance on DDT for Malaria Control, with UNEP support.

Hazardous wastes

47. 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 has increasingly become focused on the lifecycle of economy and the role and responsibility of the private sector, particularly industry therein.

48. UNEP continued to support and complement the activities of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposals. UNEP provides substantive support to the development of the Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (adopted in Basel in December 1999).

49. UNEP's activities in the promotion of cleaner production have contributed further in the minimization of hazardous wastes. Following the signing in April 1999 of the International Declaration on Cleaner Production by over 40 Governments and over 70 companies and business associations, during the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, additional signing events took place in Bahrain, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Morocco, Tunisia, the United States of America and Vietnam. The Declaration aims at encouraging new and additional finance and investment for preventive technology options and the promotion of environmentally sound technology cooperation and transfer. Its implementation is assisted by

UNEP's global network of cleaner production partners in all parts of the world, including sixteen UNEP/UNIDO National Cleaner Production Centres. Additional five centres are planned for the Eastern European and African countries. With funding support from the Government of Norway, a project on Promoting Cleaner Production Investments, focusing on the role of development banks and private investors in funding cleaner production, is also being implemented. Regional roundtables on cleaner production are being planned for Africa and the Mediterranean Region. A worldwide review on the progress of the implementation of cleaner production will take place at the sixth high-level seminar, to be held in Montreal, in October 2000.

B. CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES

1. Social and economic dimensions

50. On social and economic dimensions covered by Section I of Agenda 21, UNEP contributes to the implementation of relevant actions identified in the chapters under this section as they relate to the environment.

Economics, trade and environment

51. Regarding the issues under chapter 2 "International cooperation to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries and related domestic policies", UNEP, built on its strength in the field of the environment, contributes to the actions towards making trade and environment mutually supportive.

52. UNEP aims to improve countries' understanding of the interlinkages and complementarities between trade, environment and development through research, country studies and consensus building activities. These include: research on major issues in the trade-environment domain continues, with emphasis placed on developing practical and solution-oriented approaches to assess and manage the environmental impacts of trade; UNEP Country Studies, particularly for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enhance their capacities to assess the environmental impacts of trade liberalization and to develop policy response measures to correct negative impacts while strengthening positive ones.

53. Over the past two years, UNEP has worked with national institutions and governments in Bangladesh, Chile, India, the Philippines, Romania and Uganda on country studies covering various economic sectors; and consensus building activities that bring experts and decision-makers together in informal and unofficial dialogue, aimed at identifying options to carry forward the trade-environment agenda. Recent international expert workshops have focused on multilateral environmental agreements and multilateral trade agreements, on subsidies and the environment, as well as on the Agreement of Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and the environment. Numerous briefings and seminars are used to disseminate the results of these workshops, research and country studies.

54. In response to the increasing need for capacity building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, UNEP and UNCTAD jointly launched a Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF) in February 2000. The CBTF combines the unique strengths of UNEP to build capacities on environmental aspects of trade, and of UNCTAD to build capacities on the developmental aspects of trade. By enhancing synergies between UNEP and UNCTAD, and drawing on the two organizations' technical expertise and comparative advantages, the CBTF will make resources available to a wider range of beneficiaries. Through research, training and country studies, the CBTF will seek to enhance countries' appreciation of the developmental benefits that accrue when environmental considerations are integrated into national economic and trade policies. Through research and policy dialogue, it will also aim to raise countries' awareness of the need to ensure that international environmental and trade policy regimes remain mutually supportive and consistent.

55. UNEP participates in and contributes to meetings and regional training seminars of the WTO's Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE). At the same time, the WTO actively participates in UNEP meetings on trade-related topics. This collaboration has fostered enhanced dialogue between stakeholders, particularly on the issue of establishing greater coherence between the MEAs and the WTO. In November 1999, following extensive consultations between UNEP and WTO.

Changing consumption patterns

56. In order to systematically address environmental dimensions of chapter 4 "Changing consumption patterns", UNEP has incorporated into its programme of work a programme element of 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 via, workshops and experts meetings, research reports and tool kits and guides. In 1998, three international workshops were held in San Francisco, United States (for developed and developing countries), in Tsukuba, Japan (with support from the Government of Japan, for Asia and the Pacific countries), and in Brussels (co-sponsored with the Government of the United States) to promote lifecycle assessment. Since 1999, the development of a sustainable consumption strategy for youth had been initiated in cooperation with the UNEP Youth Advisory Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development. With a view to fostering sustainable consumption, UNEP has been promoting an Initiative on Advertisement and Sustainable Development. In 1999, UNEP organized twenty-one meetings, seminars and conferences related to production and consumption patterns in the fields such as sustainable agri-food production, mining and environmental management of industrial estates.

57. UNEP developed a pilot *Sustainable Energy Advisory Facility (SEAF)* that will 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 SEAF. With support from the UN Foundation, UNEP has also started a programme to help establish small, private sector energy companies in Africa that are based on renewable energy technologies. The Africa Rural Energy Enterprise Development (AREED) initiative brings together various financial institutions and NGOs (both African and Western) to promote successful approaches to business start-ups.

Integrating environment and development in decision-making

58. Integrating environment and development in decision-making, addressed by chapter 8, is a critical component of the programmes of UNEP and is incorporated into its activities in the form of, for example, global and regional policy development fora and technical and legal advisory services to develop national policies, regulatory frameworks and institutions.

59. UNEP continued to provide legal advisory services to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in developing national environmental legislation and institutions. In 1999, UNEP provided such assistance to 13 countries (Cameroon, El Salvador, Ghana, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Mauritania, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Peru, Rwanda and Sri Lanka). Also, UNEP provided assistance to the Russian Federation, Belarus and Armenia in the harmonization of environmental laws with a view to developing a holistic legal system in the CIS countries. To increase the role of judiciary in environmental matters and sustainable development, UNEP organized a regional symposium entitled the Southeast Asian Justices Symposium: The Law on Sustainable Development, in Manila in March 1999 and for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, a Judicial Symposium on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development: Access to Environmental Justice in Latin America in Mexico City in January 2000.

60. In order to assist governments build expertise within their officials to support regulatory system in environmental matters, UNEP convened the fourth Global Training Programme on Environmental Law and Policy in Nairobi for a period of three weeks in November and December 1999. Government officials and experts from 47 countries around the world were provided with environmental law related information and opportunities for enhancing their skills in environmental law. To make widely accessible legal information, UNEP, together with 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.

61. UNEP continued its assistance to African countries in enhancing their national environmental legislation and related institutions under the Joint UNEP/UNDP/Dutch Project on Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa. Since May 1999, seven training workshops have been held with a total of more than 200 participants which include government officials and NGOs and the private sector: Environmental Impact Assessment, in São Tome and Principe, Kenya; environmental litigation and judicial intervention in environmental cases in Malawi; Colloquia for parliamentarians on environmental legislation in Kenya and Burkina Faso; and implementation of conventions related to biological diversity in Africa (two workshops).

62. UNEP has been active in supporting African countries in the formulation of environmental policies and policy instruments. This includes support to regional and sub-regional cooperative frameworks, as well as support to Governments through legal and technical advisory services and technical assistance in various programme areas. In order to effectively meet the needs of Africa, UNEP is finalizing a comprehensive strategy document, "Joining Hands", which contains innovative, concrete and realistic action proposals to deal with the complex and emerging environmental concerns of Africa.

63. UNEP convened the 8th session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) which was held in Abuja, Nigeria from 3-6 April 2000 as part of the firm resolve of African Governments to strengthen this important regional co-operation mechanism to meet the environmental management challenges of the 21st century.

64. In addition, the project has continued the production and distribution of materials on environmental policy and law, which included a two-volume compendium of judicial decisions on matters related to environment. The Memorandum of Understanding on the Environment, which was adopted under the project in October 1998, was amply reflected in the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community signed by the Heads of States on 30 November 1999. The work under this project enhanced the capacity of East African countries by providing a well conceived body of recommendations and soft law instruments which will strengthen future environmental management in the region.

65. UNEP further strengthened its activities in the regions, in particular through its Regional Offices and other existing cooperative regional and subregional institutional frameworks. UNEP has continued to undertake programmatic activities at the regional level in close collaboration with Governments, UN regional commissions and other regional organizations and partners. During the period under review, regional activities included: the assessment of the environment in regions; the promotion of regional policy dialogues on emerging environmental issues; catalyzing region-wide environmental actions by supporting the existing regional institutional frameworks or regional environmental conventions; and capacity building activities for developing countries and countries with economies in transition in regions.

66. For example, experience gained in supporting the Forum of Ministers of the Environment in Latin America and the Inter-agency Technical Committees serves as a model for establishing regional fora in other regions. Similarly, in Asia and the Pacific experience gained with regional assessment centres serves to assist the replication of such centres elsewhere.

2. Strengthening the role of major groups

67. UNEP has been actively involving major groups as partners in implementing its activities, thereby contributing the implementation of Section III of Agenda 21 "Strengthening the role of major groups". Non-governmental organizations (chapter 27) have been UNEP's partners in carrying out a broad range of environmental actions, including their participation in national, regional and global policy fora organized by UNEP. Recent establishment of a UNEP office for civil society and non-governmental organizations demonstrates UNEP's commitment to strengthen such constructive partnership. UNEP address the role of indigenous people and their community as they relate to its activities in the field of the environment, such as those on biological diversity.

68. To ensure enhanced collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UNEP sponsored a meeting entitled "African NGOs - UNEP Partnership Meeting" in Nairobi, in September 1999, with a view to strengthening collaborative links between NGOs. Thirty-five delegates representing various NGOs from 20 African countries attended the meeting. The meeting organized peer groups from the respective countries

in order to disseminate information on the new momentum generated by UNEP. It adopted a Declaration, which was an input to the Seoul Conference of NGOs entitled "The Role of NGOs in the 21st Century: Inspire, Empower, Act". UNEP actively participated in the Seoul Conference in October 1999, which was attended by over 1,000 NGOs. UNEP sponsored a number of African NGOs to attend the Seoul event. Building upon the NGO Declaration adopted in Nairobi, the Seoul Conference adopted the Seoul Millennium Declaration, which addresses governments, the United Nations/international community and lists the commitment of NGOs. The outcome of the Conference represented an important landmark before the millennium NGO Forum in May 2000.

69. UNEP cooperated with the International Olympic Committee at the Third World Conference on Sport and Environment held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in October 1999, where an Agenda 21 for the Olympic Movement was discussed. The Agenda 21 will be launched during the 2000 Olympic Games, in Sydney.

70. In connection with UNEP's activities in the field of industry and environment (chapter 30), UNEP has been working with industry and business associations to promote cleaner production, guidance on industrial pollution management and voluntary environmental initiatives. These initiatives include:

- (a) The Financial Institutions Initiative;
- (b) The Insurance Industry Initiative;
- (c) The Tour Operators Initiative for Sustainable Tourism Development;
- (d) A Telecommunications Initiative;
- (e) The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI);
- (f) The Global Compact initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, on which UNEP actively contributes; and
- (g) The Protection of the Ozone Layer Voluntary Pledge.

71. Representatives of workers and trade unions are invited to policy-development fora, and capacity-building workshops organized by UNEP for address relevant environmental issues.

72. Through its youth and children programme, UNEP has been promoting environmental awareness among them (chapter 25). Such activities include the development of environmental information and materials for young people and awareness raising campaigns and conferences for children. In recognition of the role of women in environmental protection and sustainable development, UNEP's activities and its projects are designed to give due consideration to gender aspects (chapter 24). Further development of UNEP's partnership with civil society groups will be addressing also the implementation of chapter 24.

73. UNEP continues to develop networking of scientific and technical community with a view to enhanced quality of environmental assessment and information and effective environmental management (chapter 31). In order to foster involvement of local authorities in environmental governance, UNEP has been collaborating with other partner organizations, such as UNCHS (Habitat), in the promotion good environmental practices and dissemination of related knowledge (chapter 28).

3. Means of implementation

74. With regard to means of implementation of Agenda 21 under its section IV, UNEP's programmes are designed to fully integrate those means into its activities, as they relate to the mandate of UNEP.

Financial resources and mechanisms: Global Environment Facility

75. On financial resources and mechanisms (chapter 33), UNEP has made its environmental expertise available to multilateral financial institutions, in particular with respect to capacity building activities. As an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility, UNEP contributes to the implementation of the chapter. UNEP's Action Plan on complementarity and additionality contains a strategic approach to the integration of global environmental issues into the regular programmes of the GEF implementing agencies (UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank). To ensure complementarity between GEF activities and those of the implementing agencies, The Action Plan was endorsed by the thirteenth session

of the GEF Council, held in Washington D.C., in May 1999. To ensure a coordinated and integrated approach to the implementation of the Action Plan, UNEP established the UNEP/GEF Programme Coordination Committee in June 1999, chaired by the Deputy Executive Director. In October 1999 the Committee considered certain activities for inclusion in UNEP's costed programme of work for 2000-2001. These activities range from assessment, ozone layer protection, biodiversity, biosafety, land degradation, international waters, persistent toxic substances, and cross cutting issues. In addition, the UNEP/GEF Strategic Partnership was developed and adopted by the GEF Council in December 1999. Under the framework of the Strategic Partnership, the initial activity for FY 2000 of US\$ 1.3 million was adopted, which includes strategic activities, such as the establishment of a Clearinghouse for Technology Transfer and Know-how Transfer and an Interactive Forum on Global Environmental Issues.

76. In keeping with the framework of the Action Plan, UNEP/GEF, from January 1999 to March 2000 promoted a work programme comprising:

- (a) five full-scale projects of US\$ 50.7 million, which includes US\$ 29.12 million in GEF financing;
- (b) ten medium sized projects of US\$ 7 million;
- (c) fourteen PDFBs (Project Development Fund category B) of US\$ 5.15 million;
- (d) thirteen PDFAs (project Development Fund category A) of US\$ 0.32 million,; and
- (e) one climate change enabling activity of US\$ 0.175 million.

Environmentally sound technology

77. For the transfer of environmentally sound technology, addressed by chapter 34, UNEP, through its International Environment Technology Centre, systematically disseminate information and knowledge of such technology and promote use of such technology. The International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) of UNEP, located in Osaka, Japan, continues to promote the use of environmentally sound technologies to address

urban and freshwater management issues. To this end the information exchange database “Maestro” is being supplemented with a number of water management technologies. In addition, in Kobe, Japan, an international symposium was organized on efficient water use in cities, technology options for rainwater harvesting, water recycling, leakage control and water efficiency. 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 citizen’s programme is being developed together with NGOs and local authorities, using Lake Biwa in Japan as a case study.

78. UNEP has continued to deliver information on environmentally sound technology to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to address urban and freshwater basin environmental problems, including water resource management, sewage, and solid waste. UNEP, in cooperation with the Government of Japan, organized the International Symposium on Efficient Water Use in Cities – Innovative Ways of Finding Water for Cities, in Shiga, Japan, (June 1999) attended by 150 delegates from 45 countries.

79. UNEP develops and operates various clearing-house mechanisms for information exchange concerning technology transfer and industry. These mechanisms include Ozone Action Information clearinghouse; International Cleaner Production Information Clearinghouse; *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 SIDS).

National environmental mechanisms and international cooperation

80. UNEP has been helping developing countries develop their national environmental mechanisms and coordinating international cooperation in this regard, for example in the development of national environmental legislation and institutions (chapter 37). UNEP undertakes, in cooperation with donor governments and partner organizations, numerous capacity building activities designed to catalyze actions in the field of the environment. Those activities are carried out as part of UNEP’s programme of work, encompassing

such areas as environmental assessment, environmental management and technology, policy development, development of national environmental legislation and institutions and the promotion of the implementation of environmental conventions.

International legal instruments

81. UNEP continues to lead the development of international legal instruments and related mechanisms in the field of the environment (chapter 38). UNEP activities in this field have been guided by its long-term strategic programme, the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme). During the second half of 1999, UNEP initiated a process for the preparation of a new strategic programme for the development and periodic review of environmental law for the first decade of the twenty-first century (Montevideo Programme III). The possible elements are being elaborated with the assistance of an international group of experts that held its first and second meetings in Washington D.C. in January and April 2000 respectively.

82. The recent achievements and contribution in the development of international legal instruments include:

- (a) Adoption of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;
- (b) Further progress in the development of a global legally binding instrument on persistent organic pollutants (POPs);
- (c) Provision of legal assistance to the secretariat of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) for the development of a regional legal framework on transboundary air pollution, especially from haze and forest fires;
- (d) Provision of legal support to the development and initiation of the Caspian Environment Programme, particularly through fostering the negotiation of the Caspian Sea Convention.
- (e) Support to the Conference of the Parties and the secretariat of the Basel

Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal for the adoption of the Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes;

- (f) Support to the Conference of the Parties and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the adoption of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and
- (g) Support to the further development of regional seas conventions and protocols and related action plans.

83. With a view to general development of international environmental law concerning dispute avoidance and dispute settlements, UNEP, in the context of the Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic prepared a study on this subject with the assistance of a group of legal experts. *The Study on Dispute Avoidance and Dispute Settlement in International Environmental Law* was presented to the Governing Council at its twentieth session, which took note of it with appreciation.

Interlinkages and coordination among conventions

84. UNEP has initiated actions aiming at enhancing coherence and synergy among the various existing regimes under multilateral environmental conventions.

85. The first Interlinkages Report: *Protecting Our Planet—Securing Our Future: Links among Global Environmental Issues and Human Needs*, prepared in partnership with the World Bank, WHO and NASA, was published in June 1999 with a view to bringing to the world's attention the links between global environmental issues and human needs. In October 1999, UNEP organized a meeting for the Reconstitution of the Interlinkages Experts Group in Bonn, which was attended by representatives of CITES, CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, and the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol. The meeting discussed how to follow-up on the first interlinkages report, and concluded that the second inter-linkages assessment could be

carried out as a component of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

86. In order to identify the direction that UNEP should take in promoting synergies in the scientific and technical work of environmental conventions, UNEP organized the First Consultative Meeting of the Subsidiary Scientific and Technical Bodies and Secretariats of Environmental Conventions in Bonn in October 1999. The meeting, attended by the representatives of global and regional multilateral environmental conventions, identified potential areas for collaboration among those Conventions on topics such as assessment, trade and streamlining of national reporting.

Compliance and enforcement

87. With a view to the promotion of effectiveness of the existing international environmental treaties, UNEP initiated activities regarding enforcement of and compliance with such treaties. UNEP convened a Workshop on Enforcement of and Compliance with Multilateral Environmental Agreements, in Geneva in July 1999, with the support of the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany and Japan. The workshop was attended by 49 experts from developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, drawn from law enforcement, customs, prosecution and police sectors. It focused on the Basel Convention, CITES and the Ozone treaties (the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol). Representatives of relevant convention secretariats, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the World Customs Organization participated as resource persons and facilitators in three working groups established to discuss specific illegal trade and traffic issues pertaining to each of the three conventions. A two-volume publication of the outcome will be disseminated shortly. Following up to the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting, a senior officer was appointed and an enforcement unit was established in UNEP to address enforcement issues. In addition, draft guidelines for cooperation at national, regional and global levels were prepared and reviewed by the first working group meeting of experts, held in Geneva in December 1999. The report of the Meeting and the draft guidelines have been the subject of comments from Governments, currently being analyzed, for a future review by Governments later in 2000.

UNEP's contribution to CSD

88. UNEP contributes regularly to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) by providing scientific, technical and policy information and analysis of and advice on global environmental issues. Substantive contribution to the CSD is made through its function as the Task Manager for the following chapters of Agenda 21: chapter 9 "Atmosphere", chapter 12 "Combating desertification and drought", chapter 15 "conservation of biological diversity", chapter 17 "Protection of oceans, seas and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources", chapter 19 "Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals", and chapter 20 "Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes".

89. UNEP provide the CSD sessions with substantive contributions also in other areas. For the seventh session of the CSD, UNEP's contributions covered such areas as oceans and seas, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, sustainable tourism, small island developing States and changing production and consumption patterns. UNEP's contribution to the eighth session of the CSD included the areas of land resources (in particular in connection with combating desertification and drought and conservation of biological diversity), and trade and environment.

II. MEASURES THAT ARE DESIGNED TO ACCELERATE THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21 AND THE PROGRAMME FOR THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

90. Chapter 38 of Agenda 21 identified the need for an enhanced and strengthened role of UNEP and its Governing Council. The Governing Council should within its mandate continue to play its role with regard to policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment, taking into account the development perspective. UNEP has a distinct role within the UN system to deal with global environmental challenges and to provide scientific, technical and policy information and advice on the environment to implement Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. In this lies UNEP and its Governing Council's role to contribute to a successful ten-year review and appraisal of Agenda 21, ensuring that the environmental dimension is fully and comprehensively addressed within sustainable development.

91. The reform and revitalisation of UNEP has been both complemented and further enhanced by the recommendations of the Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements that was established by the Secretary-General in 1998, as part of his overall proposals and measures for UN reform. The Task Force was charged with preparing proposals on reforming and strengthening UN activities in the fields of environment, in order to assist him in making recommendations in this regard to the General Assembly at its 53rd session. The Task Force, under the chairmanship of UNEP's Executive Director, reviewed existing structures and arrangements through which environmental activities are carried out within the UN system, focusing on the distinctive functions of policy, development of norms and standards, programme development and implementation and financing, as well as relationships amongst these functions. It evaluated the efficacy of existing structures and arrangements and made recommendations for changes and improvements to optimise the UN's environment work. Most of these far-reaching recommendations were endorsed by the Governing Council in its decision 20/17 and by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/242, and are now being implemented. The Task Force observed that the institutional landscape post-UNCED has been characterized by the growth in the number of

multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the establishment of CSD, IACSD and GEF.

92. The institutional landscape in this field in post-UNCED has been characterized by the growth in the number of international instruments concerned with the environment. While the successful establishment of various multilateral environmental agreements represents an impressive record of achievement by the international community, it also highlights the issue of the need for continuing policy coherence among the various instruments that exist in the field of the environment, in particular for complementarity in their implementation.

93. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999 (Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements), UNEP undertook intensive consultation with Governments, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives and its Subcommittee on the implementation of the resolution. The issues of significant interest included, *inter alia*, the establishment of the Environmental Management Group (EMG) and the holding of the first Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Consultations have been held on the terms of reference of the EMG with other United Nations agencies under the framework of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). The fifteenth meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, held in New York in January 2000, endorsed the draft terms of reference of EMG. The first Global Ministerial Environment Forum - Sixth Special Session of the Governing Council was successfully convened in Malmö, Sweden from 29-31 May 2000, resulting in the adoption of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration.

94. In order to facilitate activities in regions to implement Agenda 21 as part of its programme of work, UNEP strengthened its activities in the regions, in particular through its Regional Offices and other existing cooperative regional and subregional institutional frameworks. UNEP has continued to undertake programmatic activities at the regional level in close collaboration with Governments, UN regional commissions and other regional organizations and partners. Such regional activities includes the assessment of the environment in regions; the promotion of regional policy dialogues on emerging environmental issues; catalyzing region-wide environmental

actions by supporting the existing regional institutional frameworks or regional environmental conventions; and capacity building activities for developing countries and countries with economies in transition in regions.

95. The ten-year review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 to be conducted in 2002 will provide a further opportunity for the international community to take action to implement its commitments and to strengthen international cooperation urgently required to address the challenges of sustainable development in the twenty-first century. The Malmö Ministerial Declaration emphasizes that Governments and UNEP have to play a major role in the preparation for the 2002 review of UNCED at the regional and global levels and ensure that the environmental dimension of sustainable development is fully considered on the basis of a broad assessment of the state of the global environment. The 2002 conference should aim at addressing 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, counterposed against excessive and wasteful consumption and inefficient resource use that perpetuate the vicious circle of environmental degradation and increasing poverty. It points out that the 2002 conference 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. UNEP's role in this regard should be strengthened and its financial base broadened and made more predictable.

96. The Global Ministerial Environment Forum-Sixth Special Session of the Governing Council, in its decision of 31 May 2000, called upon the Executive Director to ensure the active contribution of UNEP to the preparatory process for the 10-year review.

97. From 8-9 June 2000, a Regional Consultation on the preparatory process for 2002 was held in New York with the participation of the representatives from the regional commissions, UNEP and its regional offices and the Division of Sustainable Development/ Department of

Economic and Social affairs of UN. UNEP's activities, such as the process for the preparation of GEO-III and its catalytic actions to facilitate policy dialogue in regions, were highlighted as important contribution to the regional preparation of the 2002 review.

III. CONSTRAINTS AND WAYS AND MEANS TO ADDRESS THEM

98. GEO-2000 underscored the further degradation of the global environment since the Rio Summit despite the efforts made to improve it. To remedy the situation actions are required to address root causes of environmental degradation as well as the entire lifecycle of economic and developmental activities from environmental perspectives. The impact of economic globalization on the global environment would also require due attention.

99. The Malmö Ministerial Declaration states that the year 2000 marks a defining moment in the efforts of the international community to ensure that the growing trends of environmental degradation that threaten the sustainability of the planet are arrested and reversed. Hence there is an urgent need for reinvigorated international cooperation based on common concerns and a spirit of international partnership and solidarity. It underscores that there is an alarming discrepancy between commitments and action. Goals and targets agreed by the international community in relation to sustainable development, such as the adoption of national sustainable development strategies and increased support to developing countries, must be implemented in a timely fashion. The mobilization of domestic and international resources, including development assistance, far beyond current levels is vital to the success of this endeavour.

100. The Declaration states further that the evolving framework of international environmental law and the development of national law provide a sound basis for addressing the major environmental threats of the day. It must be underpinned by a more coherent and coordinated approach among international environmental instruments. It stresses the central importance of environmental compliance, enforcement and liability, and promoting the observation of the precautionary approach as contained in the Rio Principles, and other important policy tools, as well as capacity-building.

101. Noting the GEO 2000 as a compelling assessment of the serious nature of the environmental threats faced by the international community, the Declaration states that special attention should be paid to unsustainable

consumption patterns among the richer segments in all countries, particularly developed countries. Environmental stewardship is lagging behind economic and social development, and a rapidly growing population is placing increased pressures on the environment. Environmental threats resulting from the accelerating trends of urbanization and the development of megacities, the tremendous risk of climate change, the freshwater crisis and its consequences for food security and the environment, the unsustainable exploitation and depletion of biological resources, drought and desertification, and uncontrolled deforestation, increasing environmental emergencies, the risk to human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals, and land-based sources of pollution, are all issues that need to be addressed.

102. In order to meet these challenges, UNEP needs to intensify work on the integration of the environmental dimensions of sustainable development into United Nations activities. Also, catalytic action of UNEP should become more effective and should reach wider stakeholders to change the general directions of actions in society so that the efforts to improve the environment actually outweigh the pace of environmental degradation. In this undertaking, the following aspects would be duly taken into account:

- (a) Increase programmatic coherence in the implementation of Agenda 21 with a focus on the relationship between human needs and components of ecosystems. This might require an integrated approach to address a host of problems currently addressed in separate chapters of Agenda 21, such as water, land planning and management, deforestation, urban environment, and solid and hazardous wastes management.
- (b) Make the collaboration and coordination among the UN bodies and agencies more substantive and effective in meeting environmental goals of their activities, including a means to make activities of each body and agency accountable;
- (c) Involve key actors of economic activities that are driving force of economic and social changes in relevant policy dialogue

and fora in order for them to become part of solutions to environmental problems;

- (d) Access to relevant knowledge and expertise in academic and research bodies and other sources;
- (e) Provision of adequate financial resources to carry out actions envisaged in Agenda 21, including the additional funding to UNEP from the United Nations regular budget;
- (f) Undertake scientific assessment of ecological linkages between the environmental conventions and analyse of the impact of these conventions on the environment;
- (g) Identify and undertake programme activities that have multiple benefits for achieving environmental and developmental goals;
- (h) Identify modalities to measure the impact of economic globalization on the global environment, as well as modalities to mitigate the negative impact of economic globalization;
- (i) Provide or help mobilize support to developing countries in implementing their environmental policies and in meeting their obligations under agreements through effective institutional and technical capacity building.
- (j) Seize opportunities to redress the situation, such as technological innovation and the emergence of new resource-efficient technologies to avoid the environmentally destructive practices of the past, including clean technologies.
- (k) Catalyze actions to confront the underlying causes of environmental degradation and poverty, integrate environmental considerations in the mainstream of decision-making. Efforts should be intensified in developing preventive action and a concerted response, including national environmental governance and the

international rule of law, awareness-raising and education, and harness the power of information technology to this end. All actors involved must work together in the interest of a sustainable future.

- (l) Assist Governments to ensure that the environmental perspective is taken into account in both the design and the assessment of macro-economic policy-making, as well as practices of government and multilateral lending and credit institutions such as export credit agencies.

- (m) Given the trends of globalization in the world economy and associated environmental risks and opportunities, adopt new approaches and engage the major actors involved in globalization in new ways, with a focus on a balanced and integrated approach to trade and environment policies in pursuit of sustainable development.

- (n) Continue to enhance its engagement and collaboration with the private sector and consider the relation between foreign direct investment and the environment, with a view to minimizing negative environmental implications.

- (o) Enhance the engagement of civil society organizations in the work on environmental matters.

103. The Malmö Ministerial Declaration, in its conclusion, states that "at the dawn of this new century, we have at our disposal the human and material resources to achieve sustainable development, not as an abstract concept but as a concrete reality. The unprecedented developments in production and information technologies, the emergence of a younger generation with a clear sense of optimism, solidarity and values, women increasingly aware and with an enhanced and active role in society - all point to the emergence of a new consciousness. We can decrease poverty by half by 2015 without degrading the environment, we can

ensure environmental security through early warning, we can better integrate environmental consideration in economic policy, we can better coordinate legal instruments and we can realize a vision of a world without slums. We commit ourselves to realizing this common vision." In accordance with this guidance, UNEP will further strengthen its proactive role and activities contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21.