ECOSOC regarded the meeting as an example of the Council's success in building bridges between the United Nations and the international financial institutions, especially the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

On the architecture of the international financial system, participants had noted the positive initial steps taken to address the financial crisis. Measures should continue to be taken to strengthen the international financial architecture, keeping in view the need for a holistic approach and, above all, never forgetting the needs of the developing countries. Particular attention had been paid to the need to enhance transparency in institutions, markets, governments and international organisations.

Participants had stressed that debt relief required additional resources, and that it should not be at the expense of development assistance.

**UNCTAD: Agenda for UNCTAD X**
The substantive agenda for the tenth quadrennial conference of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to be held in Bangkok from 12–20 February 2000, has been adopted. The theme of the conference will be "Developmental strategies in an increasingly interdependent world: applying the lessons of the past to make globalisation an effective instrument for the development of all countries and all people." The text of the resolution (TB/14) stresses the mixed impact of globalisation on development, including the persistence of economic disparities among nations and the risk of further marginalisation for a number of developing countries.

For more information contact UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Fax: +41-22-907 0043.

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**Landmine Treaty**

**Maputo Declaration***

1. We, the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, together with signatory States, are gathered in Maputo, Mozambique, joined by international organizations and institutions, political and international organizations, to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the total eradication of an insidious instrument of war and terror: anti-personnel mines.

2. Even now, at the end of the century, anti-personnel mines continue to maim and kill countless innocent people each day, force families to flee their homes and children to abandon their schools and playgrounds; and prevent long-suffering refugees and displaced persons from returning to rebuild their homes and their lives. The real or suspected presence of anti-personnel mines continues to deny access to much-needed resources and services and cripples normal social and economic development.

3. We raise our serious concern at the continued use of anti-personnel mines in areas of instability around the world. Such acts represent a major public health threat. The rapid entry-into-force of the Convention, we recognise that the enduring value of this unique international instrument rests in fully realizing the obligations and the promise contained within the Convention

4. To ensure no new use;

5. To eradicate stocks;

6. To cease development, production and transfers;

7. To clear mined areas and thus free the land from its deadly bondage;

8. To assist the victims to reclaim their lives and prevent new victims.

9. We believe these to be common tasks for humanity and therefore call on governments and people everywhere to join us in this effort.

10. To those who continue to use, develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain and transfer these weapons: cease now, and join us in this task.

11. To those who can offer technical and financial assistance to meet the enormous challenges of humanitarian mine action: intensify your efforts and help build the capacity of mine-affected countries themselves to increasingly take on these tasks.

12. To those who can offer assistance: help with the physical and psycho-social treatment and social and economic re-integration of mine victims, support mine awareness education programmes, and help those States that are in need to meet treaty obligations to demine and to destroy stockpiles, thus facilitating the widest possible adherence to the Convention.

13. To those that have not yet joined this community of States Parties: accede quickly to the Convention. To those who have signed: ratify. If ratification will take more time: provisionally apply the terms of the Convention while you put in place the necessary domestic legislation.

14. Driven by the sad reality that the people of the world will continue to suffer the consequences of the use of anti-personnel mines for many years to come, we believe it crucial that we use this First Meeting of the States Parties to ensure that we make continued, measurable progress in our future efforts to eradicate anti-personnel mines in order to alleviate the humanitarian crisis caused by them.

15. We recognise that anti-personnel mines represent a major public health threat. The plight of mine victims has revealed the inadequacy of assistance for victims in the countries most affected. Such assistance must be integrated into broader public health and socio-economic strategies to ensure not simply short-term care for victims, but special attention to me
serious long-term needs for social and economic reintegration. Mine victims must be permitted to realise, with dignity, their place within their families and their societies. These issues must be accorded the highest political importance and practical commitment by States Parties and all those in the international community who can contribute to them. 16. To this end, we commit ourselves to mobilise resources and energies to universalize the Convention and to take ten actions in partnership for improving the environment and health in the twenty-first century.

Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in the twenty-first century.

1990s

Helsinki (1994) and marked a new commitment from 16 to 18 June 1999. Our meeting built on

There are many positive trends with them can yield added value for the environment and health.

WHO/ECE

Declaration on Environment and Health*

Preamble

1. We, ministers and representatives of European Member States of WHO and Members of the European Economic Community (EC) responsible for health and the environment gathered in London from 16 to 18 June 1999. Our meeting built on foundations laid at the previous Environment and Health conferences in Frankfurt (1989) and Helsinki (1994) and marked a new commitment to action in partnership for improving the environment and health in the twenty-first century. 2. We welcome the WHO report An overview of the environment and health in Europe in the 1990s. It demonstrates that the ten years since our first conference have seen various achievements, which give grounds for optimism about improvements in Europe’s environment and health in the 21st century. However, it also shows that the Region still faces many urgent environmental and health challenges.

Europe’s environment and health at the turn of the twenty-first century

3. Many problems remain unsolved and new challenges have emerged.

WHO/ECE

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traffic, especially due to road transport.

• Within countries, the lack of economic growth and stability are urgent problems for some countries, denying a sustainable basis for protecting the environment and health. Special assistance is needed for countries in transition and some Member States which face more severe and often worsening environmental and health problems. We express our horror at the continuation of armed conflicts in some countries of the Region, and the resulting loss of life and destruction of natural environments, health care establishments and recreational zones; there is a need for international assessment of the damage being done to the environment and health. 4. However, there are many reasons for being confident that improvements can be made.

WHO/ECE

• In the Region as a whole, serious problems remain and some are increasing. We draw particular attention to the increasing inequality between and within countries and the need for international cooperation on transboundary problems, such as air pollution; to the continuing lack of reliable access to sufficient safe water and sanitation for many communities, as a basic prerequisite for health; and to transport, where solutions have yet to be found to the adverse environment and health impacts of increasing

Commitment to action

6. We wish to record here, in the paragraphs below, the actions that we have agreed at our third Conference.

Cross-cutting action

7. We will carry out environmental impact assessments fully covering impacts on human health and safety. We invite countries to introduce and/or carry out strategic assessments of the environment and health impacts of proposed