**Agriculture**

1. **Introduction**

   1. Agriculture as an economic sector is being considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session from the broad perspective of sustainable development, highlighting the linkages between economic, social and environmental objectives. As contained in Agenda 21, particularly chapter 14, and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, agriculture has to meet the fundamental challenge of satisfying the demands of a growing population for food and other agricultural commodities, especially in developing countries. The particular focus of the discussion has been promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development (SARD), in accordance with the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the internationally agreed objectives contained in chapter 14 of Agenda 21 as well as, *inter alia*, the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action adopted by the World Food Summit (Rome, November 1996). The basis for achieving SARD in all countries is contained in these and other commitments; what is needed is their full implementation at all levels.

   2. Agriculture has a special and important place in society because it ensures the production of food and fibre, is essential to food security and to social and economic development, employment, maintenance of the countryside, and conservation of land and natural resources, and helps sustain rural life and land. The major objectives of SARD is to increase food production and enhance food security in an environmentally sound way so as to contribute to sustainable natural resource management. Food security — although a policy priority for all countries — remains an unfulfilled goal. About 790 million people living in developing countries and 34 million in industrialized countries and in countries with economies in transition are undernourished. While some improvement in the situation has recently been noted, the international community must be concerned that the average annual decrease of undernourished people is insufficient to achieve the target set at the 1996 World Food Summit to reduce by half the number of undernourished by 2015 (Plan of Action, para. 7).

   3. Progress in poverty eradication is fine as an alternative to fees and taxes for raising investment capital for environmental protection. In addition, the scheme would force businesses and companies that cause pollution to pay for cleaning up any resulting environmental problems and compensate the state for any losses.”

**USA**

**Water Security Alliance**

Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, called recently for the creation of a global water security alliance, to face the challenge of water shortages igniting serious political and military crises. She added that the United States proposes to play a decisive role in the development of this new alliance, suggesting that difficulties linked to water raise serious concerns in terms of foreign policy in a number of critical regions around the world.

Secretary Albright indicated that the United States is not proposing an alliance along the lines of NATO, restricted to certain countries and comprising only governments, but rather a less formal alliance, open to those who understand the urgent need to work together to conserve, manage and use transboundary water wisely. She identified several regions, notably in Africa and the Middle East, where water management poses significant problems, over and above purely environmental considerations. She also emphasised that this new alliance would represent a long-term effort, its success resting not only on ecological and health considerations, but also on promoting democracy worldwide.

**Chad-Cameroon Oil Pipeline**

Members of the European Parliament who visited Chad and Cameroon to assess the impact of a planned oil pipeline to be built between southern Chad and Cameroon’s coast stated recently that they were not hostile to it, but that “the benefits should go to the populations.”

In January, the European Parliament had adopted a Resolution calling on the European Investment bank to suspend its contribution of 44 million Euros to the project as long as environmental and social requirements were not guaranteed. The project will generate some $2 billion for Chad and $500 million for Cameroon, according to World Bank estimates. Chevron Corporation said recently that it would participate in the 650-mile export pipeline project. However, French oil group Elf Aquitaine and its Anglo-Dutch rival Royal Dutch/Shell Oil Group, who were originally going to participate in the project, have now backed out.
critical to improve access to food and promote food security. About 1.5 billion people in the world live in poverty and recent trends indicate this number could rise to 1.9 billion by 2015. In addition, the gap between rich and poor is widening, and the poor, particularly women and disadvantaged groups, rural people living in poverty and indigenous communities – are being increasingly marginalized. The inextricable link between hunger and poverty means that the goals of achieving food security in the context of SARD and pursuing the eradication of poverty, as agreed, inter alia, at the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995), have to be addressed in an integrated manner. It remains essential to continue efforts for the eradication of poverty through, inter alia, the development of mechanisms to reinforce local food systems and improving food security. The concept of sustainable food, land and rural development offers such an approach.

2. Priorities for action
(a) Implementation of sustainable agriculture and rural development (SARD) goals

4. Governments are encouraged to complete the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development and agreed in the framework for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. Local Agenda 21 and other local sustainable development programmes, are encouraged to integrate agricultural production, food security and rural development as central elements in those strategies.

5. All Governments are urged to reaffirm their individual and collective commitments to achieving food security, particularly through, inter alia, the development of appropriate activities and recommendations. The international community is urged to support, inter alia, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and its Global Mechanism which should also contribute to conserving and rehabilitating the natural resources, particularly potential land and environmental aspects of sustainable agriculture and animal production on natural ecosystems, in particular on those with high biodiversity. In this regard, it is important that Governments and international agencies continue developing studies on the impact of agriculture on forests in the light of the objectives of the Convention. Appropriate activities and recommendations. The international community is encouraged to support SARD-related initiatives, in line with national priorities, objectives and circumstances in recipient countries, given that ODA programmes have been steadily reduced in recipient countries, given that ODA programme levels have been steadily declining during the past two decades.

10. The international community, including the United Nations system and the international financial institutions, is urged to provide support to institutional reform and development of market infrastructure and access to financial and credit, particularly to the agricultural and rural development sectors in developing countries, especially in the least developed countries and net food importing countries, in accordance with national development strategies in recipient countries, given that ODA programme levels have been steadily declining during the past two decades.

14. Governments are encouraged to adopt and implement measures that guarantee adequate access to technology and resources, in particular for women, disadvantaged groups, people living in poverty and local communities, in order to ensure a sustainable use of land and water resources. Access to credit, particularly through rural microcredit schemes, is also important.

15. All Governments and the international community are encouraged to implement the relevant commitments they have entered into for the eradication of poverty, including those contained in the Convention on Biological Diversity and programme of action of the World Summit for Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Environment and Development.

16. The international community, in particular the least developed countries, in developing strategies and in providing assistance to those countries, including those contained in the Convention on Biological Diversity and Agenda 21, should take a cross-sectoral approach to promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development and to attract and to provide support to institutional reform and development of market infrastructure and access to financial and credit. Governments are urged to pay particular attention to the social dimension of SARD, including health protection. Governments are urged to develop and implement measures to attract and to provide support to institutional reform and development of market infrastructure and access for achieving SARD in developing countries and their partners should make particular efforts to ensure that a substantial share of ODA is directed to the agricultural and rural development sectors in developing countries, especially in the least developed countries and net food importing countries, in accordance with national development strategies in recipient countries, given that ODA programme levels have been steadily declining during the past two decades.

17. Additional international financial support will be very important for developing countries. The international community is urged to provide an enabling environment for mobilising domestic and international financial support.

18. The international community, including the United Nations system and the international financial institutions, is urged to provide support to institutional reform and development of market infrastructure and access to financial and credit. Governments are encouraged to adopt and implement measures that guarantee adequate access to technology and resources, in particular for women, disadvantaged groups, people living in poverty and local communities, in order to ensure a sustainable use of land and water resources. Access to credit, particularly through rural microcredit schemes, is also important.

12. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, within its operational requirements, is encouraged to promote the use of its financial mechanisms to support initiatives in line with national programmes promoting SARD that result, inter alia, in reduced greenhouse emissions or carbon sequestration, as well as increased investments in energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources.

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19. Governments and the international community are urged to implement the relevant commitments they have entered into for the eradication of poverty, including those contained in the Convention on Biological Diversity and Agenda 21, avoiding unjustifiable trade barriers and taking fully account the discussions in FAO and other international organisations.

19. Governments are urged to promote SARD-related initiatives, in line with national programmes, that result, inter alia, in the conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity.

20. Governments, relevant interna-
tional organizations and the private sector are urged both to continue and to increase their contribution to capacity-building and the transfer of appropriate technology, particularly environmentally sound technology, to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as to promote partnerships for fostering sustainable agriculture and food security and promoting rural development.

21. International financial institutions are encouraged to further promote the transfer of technology and capacity-building, including on the allocation of funds to enable developing countries to achieve food security through enhanced agricultural production, including food storage systems and agro-food industries.

22. Relevant international, regional and national bodies and the private sector are encouraged to support developing countries in their efforts to increase research and to achieve national integrated natural resource management, appropriate technology and sustainable agricultural methods to achieve the objectives of food security and SARD, including participatory approaches and to disseminate information on the results of their research and its applicability. Research should be carried out in an effective way involving both developed and developing countries.

23. Governments and the international community are encouraged to promote the sharing of natural disaster early warning systems and enhance national capacities to prevent and mitigate the effects of natural disasters.

(l) Biotechnology

24. Governments are encouraged to explore transparent, science-based risk assessment procedures, as well as risk management procedures, applying the precautionary principle in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration and recalled in the Cartagena Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity – the Convention concerning the transfer of significant biological resource material, and to enter into an agreement to ensure that genetic resources are equitably shared.

25. Governments are urged to strengthen their efforts in effectively implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, with the support of their development partners.

(h) Integrated pest management and integrated plant nutrition

26. Governments are urged to promote only the safe and sustainable use of plant protection products and plant nutrition in agricultural production and to strengthen practical ways to enhance the application of integrated pest management and integrated plant nutrition. All stakeholders, including farmers and distributors, are encouraged to cooperate and to develop appropriate and safe biotechnological and other pest management tools.

27. Governments are urged to adopt and implement integrated pest management and to support its effective implementation.

28. Governments are urged to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to support its effective implementation.

29. Governments are encouraged to support developing countries and countries in terms of their export earnings, and to support their efforts to achieve SARD, primarily as a means to eradicate rural poverty.

30. Sanitary and phytosanitary measures are relevant to sustainable agriculture and rural development. Their implementation must be in accordance with WTO agreements.

(i) Desertification and drought

31. Combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought are crucial elements of SARD. Governments and relevant international organizations should promote the integration of national action programmes to combat desertification, developed under the United Nations Convention on Combat Desertification, into national strategies for sustainable development.

(j) Access to land and security of land tenure

32. Recognising the existence of different national laws and/or systems of land access and tenure, Governments, at appropriate levels, including the local authorities, are encouraged to support policies and implement laws that guarantee to their citizens well-defined and enforceable land rights and promote quasi-capacity building assistance for this purpose.

33. Agricultural practices, technologies and markets, inter alia, through capacity-building programmes, by utilizing information technology. In this context, special attention must be given to the needs of women, marginalized groups and indigenous and local communities.

34. Governments are urged to ratify the CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY.

35. Governments are urged to ratify the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and to support its effective implementation.

36. Governments are urged to support developing countries in their efforts to achieve SARD, primarily as a means to eradicate rural poverty.

37. Governments and the international community are encouraged to make further efforts, with special attention to the gender perspective, in developing methodologies and improving coordination for data collection, indicators analysis, monitoring and evaluation of public and private efforts to support sustainable agriculture and rural development.

38. Governments are urged to promote partnerships for fostering sustainable agriculture and food security and promoting rural development.

39. Relevant international organizations are also urged to assist countries in developing policies for providing food security.

40. IFAD is encouraged to strengthen its assistance to rural communities in developing countries in terms of their efforts to achieve SARD, primarily as a means to eradicate rural poverty.

41. Relevant organizations and bodies are encouraged to support the efforts of countries in developing countries in terms of their export earnings.
44. The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is invited to increase research and pursue partnerships for integrated natural resource management and to disseminate the results.

45. Effective implementation of the SARD objectives requires participation of a wide range of stakeholders. Empowerment, participation and partnerships are critical to success in achieving SARD, in particular involvement of women, bearing in mind their important role in SARD. Governments and relevant international organizations are therefore urged, as appropriate, to further develop innovative institutional mechanisms to ensure effective stakeholder participation in decision-making related to SARD.

46. As part of the ongoing review of progress towards SARD and within existing structures and resources, the FAO and the CSD secretariat, in consultation with Governments, relevant international organizations and all major groups are invited to define a stakeholder dialogue on SARD, including facilitating the adequate and meaningful participation of stakeholders from developing countries. In preparing for CBD-10 and Rio+10, this dialogue should emphasize the identification of specific examples and the development of case studies which illustrate or support the principles of sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Integrated Planning and Management of Land Resources*

1. Introduction
1. The main objectives of activities in the integrated planning and management of land resources must be pursued in full accordance with Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. It is important that countries address sustainable development through a holistic approach, such as ecosystem-based management. This approach would address interactions among land resources, water, air, biota and human activity in an integrated manner, in order to meet the priority challenges of desertification and drought, sustainable mountain development, prevention and mitigation of land degradation, coastal zones, deforestation, climate change, rural and urban land use, urban growth and conservation of biological diversity. Integrated watershed management provides one of the commonly-understood frameworks for achieving a holistic approach to sustainable development. The application of the ecosystem-based approach should take into consideration the livelihood opportunities of people living in poverty in rural areas, and a balance should be found through the use of policy instruments between environmental conservation and rural livelihood.

2. The importance of integrated planning and management of land resources derives from the unprecedented population pressures and demands of society on land, water and other natural resources, as well as the increasing degradation of resources and threats to the stability and resilience of ecosystems and the environment as a whole, in part as a result of climate change. These trends highlight the need for each country to ensure for its citizens within the limits of its national territory and a secure, equal access and rights to land, water and other natural and biological resources, and to resolve competition among different domestic sectors for land resources.

3. The challenge is to develop and promote sustainable and productive land-use management systems as part of national and local strategies for sustainable development and to protect critical natural resources and ecosystems through balancing land, water and other natural resources. Governments are encouraged to provide transparent, effective, participatory and accountable governance conducive to sustainable development and responsive to the needs of people. Social and health aspects of land use systems deserve particular attention and should be integrated into the overall planning process.

2. Priorities for future work
4. The review of implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. It is important that countries address sustainable development through a holistic approach, such as ecosystem-based management. This approach would address interactions among land resources, water, air, biota and human activities, including participation and partnerships in integrated natural resource management, in particular involvement of women, bearing in mind their important role in SARD. Governments and relevant international organizations are encouraged to provide technical and material assistance to remove or otherwise render ineffective any remaining obstacles to sustainable development, in accordance with international norms, standards and agreements.

8. Governments are encouraged to strengthen national, regional and local institutional frameworks for cross-sectoral cooperation in formulation and implementation of land policies, taking into account specific national conditions and legislation.

4. Access to land and security of tenure

9. Recognising the existence of different national laws and/or systems of land access and tenure. Governments, at appropriate levels, including national authorities, are encouraged to develop and/or adopt policies and implement laws that guarantee to their citizens well-defined and enforceable land rights and promote equal access to land and legal security of tenure, in particular for women and disadvantaged groups, including persons living in poverty and indigenous and local communities.

10. Governments are encouraged to develop adequate land administration systems supporting sustainable land tenure on the basis of land cadastres, land management, land valuation, land planning and monitoring and supervision of land use, where appropriate.

1. Governments are encouraged to include traditional land owners, land users and the landless, when undertaking land tenure reform, including the development of land cadastres, so as to focus on making traditional land owners and the landless as active participants in the planning and development of land resources.

12. The international community and United Nations agencies and organizations and the international community, international organizations and other stakeholders are encouraged to develop partnerships to share information and promote access to appropriate technologies and traditional knowledge.

7. The Commission recognised the important role that the international community, particularly States involved in the deployment of mines, can play in assisting mine clearance in mine-affected countries through the provision of technical and information and appropriate technical and material assistance to remove or otherwise render ineffective any remaining obstacles to sustainable development, in accordance with international norms, standards and agreements.

5. Critical sectors and issues

(a) Biodiversity

13. Governments are urged to sign and ratify the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to support its effective implementation.

14. Governments and United Nations organizations are encouraged to promote only those applications of biotechnology that do not pose unacceptable risks to public health or the environment, bearing in mind ethical considerations, as appropriate.

15. Appropriate authorities are encouraged to ensure that land management plans and policies reflect priority consideration of:

(1) areas containing high concentrations of biological diversity; (2) threatened ecosystems, and (3) specific sites.
should also take strategic urban planning
ernments at national and local levels
in poverty in rural and urban areas. Gov-
vantaged groups, especially people living
agement approaches aimed at creating
interactions
veloping countries and those with econo-
to provide financial and technical assist-
and international organizations are urged
Governments and relevant regional
participation
coastal zones, including protected areas
mountain resources occurs, Governments
beneficiaries of local authorities and stakeholders
mountain environments.
21. Governments and the international
prevention, both short-term and long-
term, for disaster management – includ-
ing development of appropriate warning systems and intervention plans – to address phenomena associated with natural disasters, which result in land degradation and other negative social and economic impacts. In this re-
gard, Governments and relevant regional and international organizations are urged to provide financial and technical assist-
ance for relief and remedial support to de-
vantaged countries and those with econo-
ies in transition.
22. Governments at national and local levels are urged to take strategic land man-
gagement approaches aimed at creating enabling conditions, including for rural-ur-
ban interactions in which the development of human settlements can benefit disad-
vantaged groups, especially people living in poverty in rural and urban areas. Gov-
ernments at national and local levels should also take strategic urban planning
approaches aimed at managing urban
urban sprawl. Governments at national and local levels are encouraged to consider
land-use interdependence between rural
commitments as set out in chapter 33 of Agenda 21 to effectively support the im-
plementation of integrated planning and management of land resources in devel-
oping countries, taking into account priori-
ties identified by those countries.
Economic Growth, Trade and Investment

Introduction
1. Activities regarding economic growth, till the investment should be pursued in accordance with Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, with the overarching objective of sustainable development. Further steps to achieve this should also build on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), taking also into account developments in other international fora. In order to harmonize and coordinate between UNCTAD, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other relevant institutions should be strengthened.

2. Trade and investment are important factors in economic growth and sustainable development. Both economic growth and the lack of it can have adverse environmental effects. Poverty and environmental degradation are closely interrelated. While poverty results from certain kinds of environmental stress, the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, which is a matter of grave concern, aggravating poverty and imbalances.

3. In consequence, there should be a balanced and integrated approach to trade and environmental policies. The pursuit of sustainable development, taking into account the economic, environmental and social aspects, as well as the different levels of development, without undermining the open, equitable and non-discriminatory character of the multilateral trading system or creating disguised barriers to trade. Developed countries should take the lead in addressing unsustainable production and consumption patterns, taking into account common but differentiated responsibilities as set forth in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. One of the main challenges is to promote social equity and ensure that economic growth does not result in environmental degradation. To achieve this, “greening” of the world trade system will be important. These objectives are to be pursued in accordance with Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action for Precautionary Principles adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Priority areas for future work will include the follow-up of progress, and other natural resources. In addition, Governments are urged to strengthen the capabilities of developing countries for the application of these technologies.

34. Governments are urged to promote land-related research, and extension and dissemination of technological and innovative practices, and to undertake training programmes for land users, including of the 1.5 billion landless farmers and workers and strengthening of appropriate infrastructures and other relevant stakeholders. In the field of environment and international community are urged to improve access to up-to-date information and technology by developing countries.

35. Governments are encouraged to sign, ratify and support the effective implementation of relevant international agreements, including the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (CCD) (A/49/64/Add.2, Annex, appendix II), as vital instruments for achieving integrated planning and management of land, forests and other natural resources in order to improve land-use and land management policies and to generate the multiple benefits that may accrue from the implementation of these instruments, in particular with respect to combating desertification, loss of biodiversity and degradation of freshwater resources and carbon sequestration.

36. States that have not yet done so are encouraged to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (CCD) (A/49/64/Add.2, Annex, appendix II), as vital instruments for achieving integrated planning and management of land, forests and other natural resources in order to improve land-use and land management policies and to generate the multiple benefits that may accrue from the implementation of these instruments, in particular with respect to combating desertification, loss of biodiversity and degradation of freshwater resources and carbon sequestration.

37. Governments are urged to ratify the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

38. The United Nations and other international development organizations are urged to assist developing countries in their efforts towards integrated planning and management of land resources, through financial support, transfer of environmentally sound technologies on mutually agreed terms, capacity-building and education and training.

39. Governments are encouraged – taking into account work being done by, inter alia, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the regional commissions and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), taking into account developments in other international fora. In order to harmonize and coordinate between UNCTAD, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other relevant institutions should be strengthened.

4. In particular, for developing countries and countries with economies in transition it is an important challenge to stimulate domestic investment and attract foreign direct investment (FDI) to promote sustainable development. One of the main challenges is to promote social equity and ensure that economic growth does not result in environmental degradation. To achieve this, “greening” of the world trade system will be important. These objectives are to be pursued in accordance with Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action for Precautionary Principles adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Priority areas for future work will include the follow-up of progress, and other natural resources. In addition, Governments are urged to strengthen the capabilities of developing countries for the application of these technologies.

5. Governments and international organizations are urged to support efforts of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to eradicate poverty, expand productive employment, improve living standards with a view to achieving sustainable development. The promotion of trade and investment and sustained economic growth is essential to support such efforts. Furthermore, appropriate policies should be implemented at the national level to ensure environmental protection and sustainable resource management, equitable distribution of benefits and provision of basic social services to all.

6. Governments, particularly in developing countries and, as appropriate, international organizations are also urged to improve market access, provide technical assistance and establish capacity-building initiatives in favour of developing countries and countries with economies in transition with a view to helping them to increase export opportunities, promote diversified export-oriented production and enhance their ability to trade, and to implement their commitments in existing multilateral agreements, including WTO Agreements. The international community should continue to assist countries seeking integration into the world trade system, in particular accession to WTO. Governments and international organizations are also urged to support efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to achieve sustainable development.

7. Commodity exports, particularly primary commodity exports, are the mainstay of the economies of many developing countries in terms of their export earnings, the livelihoods of their population and the dependence of general economic vitality on these exports. Commodity earnings instability continues to be problematic. Programs have to be developed that enhance commodity-based diversification in developing countries, in a manner supportive to sustainable development, including through improved market access, particularly for least-developed countries, can contribute to increased foreign exchange earnings and employment, as well as provide increased income from value-added production.

8. Governments and international organizations should endeavour to improve the functioning of commodity markets with the aim of achieving greater transparency, stability and predictability, particularly with

Priorities for future work
5. Economic growth, trade and investment will be considered as part of the 10-year review of progress of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Priority areas for future work will include the following:

(a) Promoting sustainable development through trade and economic growth;
(b) Promoting trade and environment policies;
(c) Promoting sustainable development through investment;
(d) Strengthening institutional co-operation, capacity building and promoting partnerships.

Promoting sustainable development through trade and economic growth
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regard to commodity export earnings. In this regard UNCTAD should enhance its support to developing countries in accordance with the UNCTAD X Plan of Action. There should be further evaluation of mechanisms for reducing the impacts of primary commodity prices on primary commodity producers. Countries, particularly developed countries, should provide improved market access for primary commodities from developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, in their processed forms. Developed countries should be encouraged to respond favourably to requests for technical assistance aimed at enhancing the diversification of exports, in a manner supportive of sustainable development, in those developing countries, which are highly dependent on the export of a limited number of commodities. Existing duties and quotas on market access for commodities should be reduced. Least developed countries should be provided with preferential market access on a non-reciprocal basis to trade, in particular in the least developed countries.

10. Governments are urged to pursue continued trade liberalization through, inter alia, the elimination of unjustifiable and discriminatory trade practices and non-tariff barriers to trade, notably in order to improve market access for products of export interest to developing countries. Governments in developed countries should devise policies and measures to assist diversification and, in particular, least developed countries, in diversifying their export base in a sustainable manner taking into account existing agreements and agreements on special and differential treatment for developing countries.

11. Market access conditions for agricultural and industrial products of export interest to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, should be improved. More specifically, in principle the least commodity export earnings should be improved so as to respond to the real concerns of developing countries and particularly from least developed countries. Governments are urged to further explore the concept of major least developed countries and the transfer and dissemination of ESTs to developing countries. In this regard Governments are encouraged to intensify their efforts to support the transfer of technology to be supported, as appropriate, by developed country funding.

12. Governments and international organizations are urged to facilitate effective mechanisms for helping to stabilize the prices of a limited number of commodities. Existing market stabilisation schemes should be improved on as broad and liberal basis as possible. Concrete steps need to be urgently taken to implement the commitments by developed countries to grant duty-free and quota-free market access for essentially all exports originating in least developed countries and to further examine options for other proposals to maximize market access for least developed countries. Consideration should also be given to proposals for developing countries to contribute to improved market access for least developed countries’ exports. Modernisation and operationalization of special and differential treatment, in particular in terms of maintaining and expanding export opportunities for developing countries, needs to be adapted to changing international and regional trading conditions and to make special and differential treatment a better instrument for development, enabling developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to gradually integrate into the multilateral trading system.

13. Governments and international institutions are encouraged to ensure that the benefits arising from increased trade liberalisation are equitably distributed and reach those living in poverty, in particular in developing countries by establishing policies and programmes that will enable their participation. Measures are required to ensure enhanced trade opportunities for developing countries and to provide greater security and predictability in a liberalised trading system, with particular emphasis on vulnerable groups like women and children, and that promote routes to employment generation and social development.

14. Governments and international organisations are encouraged to examine ways and means to promote the indigenous development of environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) in developing countries and to devise policies and measures to assist diversification and, in particular, least developed countries, in diversifying their export base in a sustainable manner taking into account existing agreements and agreements on special and differential treatment for developing countries.

15. Governments should fully implement the UNCTAD X Plan of Action and, in particular, examine the use and effect, particularly on trade, of incentives to attract FDI and to promote environmentally sound technologies. UNCTAD should analyse all aspects of existing international agreements relevant to transfer of technology and be supported, if appropriate, by developed country funding.

16. Governments and international organizations, in collaboration with the business community and other representatives of civil society, are encouraged, where appropriate, to support markets for environmentally friendly products, environmentally sound technologies and environmental services.

Promoting trade and environment policies mutually supportive

17. Governments and international organizations, such as WTO, and the secretariat of the Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) should be encouraged to co-operate and to continue to explore ways how to enhance the complementarities between trade liberalisation and environmental protection and to make the multilateral trading system more responsive to sustainable development concerns. All relevant parties are encouraged to identify and explore opportunities where trade liberalisation holds particular promise for promoting sustainable development and environmental protection and to address subsidies with the aim of eliminating effects which are both trade distortive and environmentally harmful, in a way that would result in trade, environmental and developmental benefits.

18. Certification and labelling schemes may be important tools for the promotion of sustainable consumption and promotion patterns. If introduced, such schemes, whether voluntary or mandatory, should be designed and implemented in an open and transparent manner and should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on trade. Governments and international organizations are urged to facilitate effective participation of developing countries in the standard-setting process. They are also urged to further explore the concept of equivalency and its application.

19. The pursuit of effective environmental policies should be ensured both nation-ally and internationally. However, environmental measures must not be used for protectionist purposes and developing countries should also avoid imposing unilateral measures that are inconsistent with the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular principle 12.

20. Governments and international organizations are urged to further consolidate the relationship between MEAs and WTO Agreements, including the relationship between the CBD and TRIPs, recognising the importance of trade and environment agreements being mutually supportive, taking into account that both trade agreements and MEAs are developed and negotiated in pursuit of legitimate multilateral objectives in support of sustainable development. In this regard, it is essential to improve market access for least developed country, environment and other relevant policy-makers at the national level, as well as promoting capacity building.

21. Governments are encouraged to promote a stable, predictable, non-discrimi-nating and transparent investment environment nationally and internationally that encourages domestic investment and foreign capital flows, including FDI, while addressing, as appropriate, the rights and obligations of investors in order to promote sustainable development. Governments in developed countries and international organizations are encouraged to provide adequate support for developing countries in their efforts to formulate and implement the appropriate domestic policies.

22. Governments are encouraged to promote a stable, predictable, non-discrimi-nating and transparent investment environment nationally and internationally that encourages domestic investment and foreign capital flows, including FDI, while addressing, as appropriate, the rights and obligations of investors in order to promote sustainable development. Governments in developed countries and international organizations are encouraged to provide adequate support for developing countries in their efforts to formulate and implement the appropriate domestic policies.

23. Governments and international organizations are encouraged to address the potential that may arise from the volatility of short-term capital flows.

24. It is recommended that in order to enhance the potential of investment, including FDI, to contribute to sustainable development, Governments and international organizations, in cooperation with relevant private sector organizations and stakeholders:

(a) Explore ways to ensure that a larger number of developing countries and countries with economies in transition benefit from investment, in particular FDI;
(b) Seek to promote the use of environmental management systems in and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
(c) Encourage companies and other representatives of civil society, particularly in support of sustainable development, Governments and international organizations to take on the responsibility to promote sustainable development by applying best practices and promoting environmentally responsible corporate behaviour and information policies, especially those related to public disclosure procedures.
28. Governments and international organisations should foster partnerships between the public and private sectors at the national and international level for the promotion of trade and economic growth in a manner conducive to sustainable development. Dialogue, consultations and information sharing with stakeholder and civil society organisations should also be promoted.

29. International cooperation and support for capacity-building in trade, environment and development policy formulation should be strengthened through renewed system-wide efforts and with enhanced responsiveness to sustainable development objectives by the United Nations, WTO, the Bretton Woods institutions and national Governments.

**Financial Resources and Mechanisms**

**Introduction**

1. The principal objectives of activities in the area of financial resources and mechanisms should be pursued in full accordance with Agenda 21 and paragraphs 76-87 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. It is important that all countries take a holistic approach to sustainable development, taking fully into account the interconnectedness of the trade, financial, economic, environmental and social aspects of sustainable development in view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation. States have common but differentiated responsibilities as stated in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration. One of the main challenges is to promote social equity and ensure that economic growth does not result in environmental degradation.

2. The rapid process of globalization and liberalization provides countries, from developed countries to developing countries, with increased opportunities, as well as brings risks and challenges for the mobilization of adequate and more stable resources for their sustainable development. Globalisation may have contributed to the increased supply of private capital flows, including foreign direct investment (FDI), to developing countries; however, this investment has been concentrated in a small number of developing countries. It has also been accompanied by a decline in Official Development Assistance (ODA) during the 1990s. In some cases, developing countries have benefited from globalisation, while others, in particular least developed countries, face further marginalisation. There is a need to strengthen international and regional cooperation in promoting the implementation of Agenda 21, particularly in developing countries that have fallen short of needs. Therefore, all financial commitments entered under Agenda 21, particularly those contained in Chapter 33, and the provision with regard to new and additional resources that are both adequate and predictable need to be urgently fulfilled. As recognised in Agenda 21, the cost of inaction could outweigh the fiscal costs of implementing Agenda 21.

**Priorities for future work**

4. The CSD will continue to address financial resources and mechanisms within the context of the themes to be discussed in 2001. The next comprehensive discussion of financial resources and mechanisms for sustainable development will take place at the comprehensive review of progress since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The review will benefit from the outcome of the High-Level Event on Financing for Development which will take place in 2001. In support of the preparatory process leading up to the comprehensive review, a further meeting of the Expert Group on Finance for Sustainable Development is planned to be held in 2001 in Budapest, Hungary.

5. Priority areas for future work of CSD will include the following:

(a) mobilisation of domestic financial resources for sustainable development;
(b) promotion of international co-operation and mobilisation of international finance for sustainable development;
(c) strengthening of existing financial mechanisms and exploration of innovative ones;
(d) improvement of institutional capacity and promotion of public/private partnerships.

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**Strengthening institutional cooperation, capacity building and promoting partnerships**

26. The Commission noted that the tool of environmental impact assessment, following previous recommendations, is being used by many countries and that some are developing other assessment tools. The Commission also noted the work underway in UNEP and UNCTAD on this issue. In response to the concerns expressed by many countries, the Commission stressed that the assessments of trade policies should be conducted with a view to promote sustainable development and should not serve as a disguised barrier to trade.

27. Governments and international organisations are urged to improve policy coherence and coordination in promoting sustainable development through trade and investment. Countries are also, with the full participation of international organisations, urged to cooperate systematically and to keep assistance and capability-building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition enable them to benefit from globalisation and trade liberalization and to better integrate into the world economy. Governments and international organizations are further encouraged to promote capacity-building with a view to enabling recipient countries to implement and enforce effectively environmental policies, including through the design and use of environmental instruments, taking into account the specific conditions and the different levels of development in individual countries.

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**Developing countries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GDP current account deficit (% of GDP)</th>
<th>Trade deficit (% of GDP)</th>
<th>GDP growth rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>-6</td>
<td>-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Excluding Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan*

**Sources:** IMF, UNCTAD

**Courtesy:** Financial Times

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Mobilisation of domestic financial resources for sustainable development

6. Considering the importance of mutually supportive international and national enabling economic environments in the process of development and the need for background work to develop, Governments are urged:
   (a) to promote the mobilisation of domestic financial resources and to establish a process of financial resource mobilisation and development, in accordance with, inter alia, the current and future targets of the United Nations framework for development,
   and in particular by ensuring that new commitments of ODA do not fall short of the existing commitments of the 0.7 per cent of GNP target.
   (b) to take into account their levels of development and their projected requirements in designing and implementing policies and programmes of sustainable development, ensuring that the mobilisation of domestic financial resources is an integral part of such policies and programmes.
   (c) to ensure that mobilisation of domestic financial resources is a responsibility of both the public and private sectors, and that such efforts are undertaken to eliminate the structural causes of indebtedness. Debt relief alone is not enough and should be complemented, inter alia, by increased market access for developing countries, taking into account existing agreements and arrangements for special and differential treatment for developing countries, and by the promotion of private investment, as well as by necessary domestic reforms.

7. Governments are encouraged to develop policies to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of aid, policy dialogue, transparent, participatory and accountable governance, conducive to sustainable development and responsive to the needs of the people; sound management of public finances; and the participation of civil society in the design, implementation, and operation of such policies. In order to achieve this, governments are urged to develop a framework for policy dialogue, and to promote the participation of civil society in the design and implementation of development policies, in particular by ensuring that public expenditure is transparent, efficient, effective, participatory and accountable, and that the mobilisation of domestic financial resources is an integral part of such policies and programmes.

Promotion of international co-operation and mobilisation of international financial resources for sustainable development

7. Sustainable development requires countries to pursue consistently pro-sustainable development policies in all areas. Developed countries should work in partnership with developing countries to help develop, adopt and implement effective strategies to achieve sustainable development. Developed countries should integrate into their strategies effective and concrete commitments, inter alia, the needs and financial situation of recipient countries, and donors should be encouraged to provide assistance in capacity-building, and to use them widely, in order to enable them to design effective environmental policies and regulatory frameworks which would reduce risks and uncertainty for investors, and to promote regional and sub-regional co-operation in order to allow as many countries as possible to benefit from assistance under the initiative as soon as possible.

11. HIPC countries are urged to develop their national poverty strategies in a participatory way so that debt relief is linked with poverty reduction and allows debtor countries to utilise budgetary savings for social expenditures in order to achieve more rapid and sustainable poverty eradication. Eligible countries which have not yet entered the HIPC process are urged to implement the necessary policy measures to enable them to participate in the process as soon as possible.

12. Governments are urged to develop their national poverty strategies in a participatory way so that debt relief is linked with poverty reduction and allows debtor countries to utilise budgetary savings for social expenditures in order to achieve more rapid and sustainable poverty eradication.
existing financial mechanisms of MEAs in a stable and predictable manner. The global mechanism of UNCCD also requires strengthening.

16. Governments are encouraged to promote the use of innovative financial mechanisms. In this regard, Governments should continue to cooperate with international organizations and major groups to identify how FDI can best contribute to sustainable development, particularly in the area of energy, and will hold its second session from 30 March to 4 April 1998.

17. The Global Environmental Facility (GEF), which is an important mechanism for mobilizing financial resources for sustainable development, should be strengthened and broadened within its mandate.

Improvement of institutional capacity and promotion of public/private partnerships

18. The private sector can play a major role in promoting and contributing to sustainable development. International organizations and governments should initiate further innovative pilot projects and scale up the experience of others and to adapt those mechanisms to the particular circumstances of individual countries. These mechanisms are not a substitute for other sources of finance for sustainable development, namely foreign aid, investment grants, and taxation.

19. International organizations are encouraged to better coordinate their work in the area of sustainable development in order to avoid duplication and to raise their effectiveness, focusing on their respective areas of competence where they have a comparative advantage. In this regard, better cooperation and dialogue is needed between international organizations, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organisation, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Programme and GEF.

20. Governments and international organizations should improve their coordination efforts, using the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the Comprehensive Development Framework proposed by the World Bank and the poverty reduction strategy process initiated by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, taking into account all aspects of sustainable development.

21. International organizations, Governments and major groups are encouraged to undertake further research and other activities in the following areas:

(a) The relationship between foreign direct investment and sustainable development, with a view to identifying how FDI can best promote sustainable development;

(b) Capacity-building for the mobilization of foreign and domestic financial resources for sustainable development;

(c) Innovative international financial mechanisms as well as the various aspects of an effective implementation of environmental taxes and charges;

22. The Commission discussed the proposal of convening an ad hoc intergovernmental panel to undertake an analytical study of the progress made in the implementation of the commitments made in the areas of finance, with a view to make recommendations on how the progress on sectoral issues with cross-sectoral areas, but no agreement could be reached on the convening of such a panel.

Subprogramme entitled “Sustainable development” of the draft medium-term plan of the United Nations for the period 2002-2005

The Commission on Sustainable Development takes note of the proposed subprogramme entitled “Sustainable development” of the draft medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (E/CN. 17/2000/CRP.1), and requests the Economic and Social Council to invite the Committee for Programme Coordination and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly to take into account the proposals of the forthcoming review of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21, which is likely to have an impact on the programme of work of the United Nations in the area of sustainable development.

Matters related to the inter-sessional work of the Commission

The Commission on Sustainable Development:

(a) Decides, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/63 of 25 July 1997 on the programme of work of the Commission for the period 1998-2002 and future methods of work of the Commission, that in order to assist the Commission in its deliberations at its ninth session, the 2001 sessions of its inter-sessional working groups will be devoted to the following issues:

(i) Information for decision-making and participation;

(ii) International cooperation for an enabling environment;

(iii) Atmosphere;

(iv) Transport;

(b) The Commission stresses that Agenda 21 should not be renegotiated and that the review should identify measures for the further implementation of Agenda 21 and the other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including sources of funding;

(c) The Commission recommends that the review should focus on areas where further efforts are needed to implement Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and should be carried out at the local, national, regional and international levels by Governments and the United Nations system, so as to ensure high-quality inputs to the review process.
The Commission encourages effective contributions from, and involvement of, all major groups;
(f) While specific decisions on the preparatory process will be determined by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, the Secretariat, early preparations at the local, national and regional levels which should commence immediately after the conclusion of the eighth session of the Commission. In this context, the Commission invites all Governments to undertake national review processes as early as possible. The national reports that have been prepared by Governments since 1992 on national implementation of Agenda 21, and to which major groups have contributed, could provide a fair basis for guiding the national preparatory process;
(g) The Commission invites the United Nations Secretariat, working in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the regional commissions, and the secretariats of the United Nations Conferences on Environment and Development-related conventions as well as other relevant organizations, agencies and programmes within and outside the United Nations system, including international and regional financial institutions, to support preparatory activities, in particular at the national and regional levels, in a coordinated and mutually reinforcing way. The Commission, while allowing for the originality of regional contributions, has agreed that a certain uniformity is needed in regional preparatory processes. The Commission also underscores the importance of using the high-level intergovernmental processes that exist at the regional level;
(h) The Commission requests the Secretary-General, in preparing his report on the 2002 review to be submitted to the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 54/218 of 22 December 1999, to take fully into account the views expressed during the Commission’s high-level segment on preparations for the ten-year review of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the recommendations of the eighth session of the Commission, and to include in his report further information on specific activities and actions undertaken and planned in the United Nations system in support of the preparatory process;
(i) The Commission recommends that the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session give consideration to organizing the 2002 review as a summit-level event to be held outside United Nations Headquarters, preferably in a developing country;
(j) The Commission also recommends that the General Assembly decide that the meetings of the tenth session of the Commission are to be transformed into an open-ended preparatory committee that would provide for the full and effective participation of all Governments. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee should undertake the comprehensive review and assessment of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It should identify major constraints hindering the implementation of Agenda 21 and propose specific time-bound measures to be undertaken, and institutional and financial requirements, and identify the sources of such support. The Commission invites all relevant United Nations organizations and the secretariats of Conference-related conventions to review and assess their respective programmes of work since the Conference and to report to the Commission at its tenth session on progress made in the implementation of sustainable development-related objectives. The comprehensive review and assessment of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and define the future programme of work of the Commission;
(k) The Commission recommends that the General Assembly, in light of paragraph (j) above, invite the Economic and Social Council to decide that the first meeting of the tenth session of the Commission, to be held immediately after the closure of the ninth session of the Commission, in accordance with Council resolution 1997/53 of 25 July 1997, should be expanded, so that the Secretary-General could thereby start its work as the preparatory committee for the 2002 event;
(l) The Commission stresses that the preparatory meetings and the 2002 event itself should be transparent and provide for effective participation and input from Governments, and regional and international organizations, including financial institutions, and for contributions from and active participation of major groups, consistent with the rules and regulations established by the United Nations for the participation of major groups in intergovernmental processes;
(m) The Commission recommends that necessary steps be taken to establish a trust fund and to support participatory processes and to support preparations for the ten-year review through voluntary contributions from international and bilateral donors to support preparations for the ten-year review through voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to support participation of representatives from developing countries in the regional and international preparatory process and the 2002 event itself. The Commission encourages voluntary contributions to support the participation of major groups from developing countries and in international preparatory processes and the 2002 event itself;
(n) The Commission invites the Economic and Social Council to consider, at its substantive session of 2000, the reports requested by resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

(courtesy: Leila Mead, ENB)

Chairman CSD-8

Provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development* 

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
5. Transport.
6. Information for decision-making and participation.
7. International cooperation for an enabling environment.
8. High-level meeting.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its ninth session.


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