

EDITORIAL

The 48th session of the UN General Assembly is now underway (see page 2), and we shall report on the results in the next issue. The Sixth Committee has discussed the report of the International Law Commission and also the Secretary-General's report on the Decade of International Law and the Protection of the Environment in Times of Armed Conflict. Under the Chairmanship of Razali Ismail, an exchange of views was held on a background information paper concerning the CSD open-ended ad hoc working group of finance and technology. The follow-up to UNCED was considered in joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

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Two important landmarks are also approaching : The Biodiversity Convention will come into force on the 29th of December (we shall bring a detailed report on the final negotiations in the next issue); and the UN Law of the Sea Convention needs only one additional ratification. A very demanding start to 1994 !

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Mostafa Tolba has appeared many times in this Journal, in both text and pictures, not only as UNEP's former Executive Director, but also as Head of the Egyptian delegation to the CSD. And now - surprise, surprise - we have been informed that he has been awarded the 1992 UN International Environment Prize. We are delighted. Everyone expected that he would get this, and he most certainly deserved it. There is really no need to add anything - but I will give my very old friend an additional hug when I see him again !

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The UN Conference on Tropical Timber (4-15 October - see last Editorial), has again failed to come up with a compromise text, so there is no report this time. The Conference will reconvene in January 1994, following consultations in Japan. However, there is widespread pessimism regarding a possible success.

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We mentioned in the last Editorial the statement and proposals made by EC President Jacques Delors. However, now that we have received the official text, we realise that either the press put a different construction on his words, or he had decided to speak off the cuff, to make these points. We have asked his office to comment.

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It's obvious that we have changed the format of the layout. However, not to make it more "appealing" and to follow what appears to have become a fashion in publishing; but mainly because the new layout enables a more simplified processing of drawings, graphs and photographs. We can now include a better quality.

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To our subscribers and readers, our best wishes for a very successful 1994.



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