

## Decisions and Resolutions<sup>\*</sup>

### – Selection –

#### 1. Oceans and Seas

##### 1. General considerations

1. The Commission emphasizes the fundamental fact that oceans and seas constitute the major part of the planet that supports life, drive the climate and hydrological cycle, and provide the vital resources to be used to ensure well-being for present and future generations and economic prosperity, to eradicate poverty, to ensure food security and to conserve marine biological diversity and its intrinsic value for maintaining the conditions that support life on earth. The Commission also reiterates the following general considerations:

(a) The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) sets out the overall legal framework within which all activities in this field must be considered;

(b) Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 remains the fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development in respect to oceans and seas;

(c) The Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex), adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session (especially its paragraph 36), identifies the needs for urgent action in respect to oceans and seas.

2. The Commission, taking into full account the different situations of various countries, calls upon Governments to strengthen national, regional and international action, as appropriate, to develop integrated approaches to oceans and coastal area management and stresses that, as in other areas, action should be taken on the basis of the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

##### 2. Major challenges at the national, regional and global levels

3. Following the 1998 International Year of the Ocean, the Commission emphasizes the importance of international cooperation, within the framework of UNCLOS and Agenda 21, in ensuring that the oceans and seas remain sustainable through integrated management, and that, while respecting the sovereignty, jurisdiction and sovereign rights of coastal States, and recalling their rights and obligations in relation to the protection of the marine environment, all States can benefit from the sustainable use of the oceans and seas. The Commission further emphasizes the threats to these objectives from overexploitation of marine living resources, including through illegal, unregulated or unreported (IUU) fishing and through unsustainable or uncontrolled distant water fishing, and from pollution. In this context, the Commission recommends that particular priority be given to:

(a) The conservation, integrated and sustainable management and sustainable use of marine living resources, including the ecosystems of which they are a part;

(b) The prevention of pollution and degradation of the marine environment from land-based and other activities;

(c) Better scientific understanding of the oceans and seas and their resources, of the effects of pol-

lution, and of the interaction of the oceans and seas with the world climate system. This will be aimed at, and facilitate, proper assessment of the oceans and seas, improving understanding of the socio-economic effects, especially from pollution, developing better systems for the sustainable management and use of the resources of the oceans and seas and comprehending and responding to such events as the El Niño phenomenon, and mitigating their impacts;

(d) Encouraging, at the national, regional and global levels, the steps necessary for an effective and coordinated implementation of the provisions of UNCLOS and Agenda 21, including institutional adjustments and improved coordination mechanisms for chapter 17 of Agenda 21, to support action at the national and regional levels in developing countries and those with economies in transition and the provision of, inter alia, financial and technical assistance for the transfer of appropriate environmentally sound technologies. In this context, the international community should promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect the intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries for the implementation of Agenda 21.

##### Capacity-building for action at the national level

4. In support of national action to implement the provisions of chapter 17 of Agenda 21, the Commission invites the United Nations system and Governments, both in their bilateral relationships and in the multilateral development and financial organizations in which they participate, to review their programmes to ensure that priority is given to initiate, or further develop, within the context of national plans, programmes for building capacities relating to, inter alia, marine environment science, the administration of fisheries and shipping, the control of activities likely to pollute or degrade the marine and coastal environment, and cooperation and coordination with other States on marine environmental matters, including development of early warning systems so as to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, especially those resulting from inter-annual climatic variability, such as the El Niño phenomenon. In this regard, it is also important that Governments, the organizations of the United Nations system and donors coordinate their actions. For the purpose of capacity building, regional and national partnership meetings involving the major groups can make a significant contribution to these activities.

##### Capacity-building for action at the regional level

5. The Commission emphasizes the importance of cooperation, at the regional level, as appropriate, within the relevant legal framework for the conservation and integrated and sustainable management and use of regional seas. In this context, the Commission supports the need

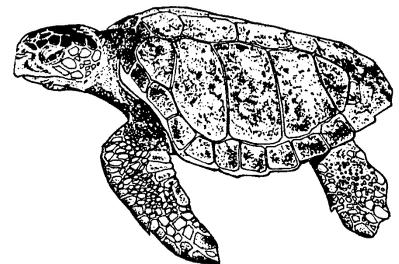
to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) regional seas programme and to enhance cooperation with other regional seas and inter-governmental organizations, in order to permit the sharing of experience, in line with the recent conclusions of the UNEP Governing Council at its twentieth session. The Commission invites organizations of the United Nations system to work with appropriate inter-governmental and regional organizations to facilitate the identification of appropriate technical solutions.

6. The Commission further invites the United Nations system and Governments, both in their bilateral relationships and in the multilateral development and financial organizations in which they participate, to review the priority given to building capacities needed to manage regional seas organizations, intergovernmental regional fisheries organizations and arrangements (RFOs) and regional monitoring systems.

##### International agreements

7. In order to achieve the goal of universal participation, the Commission recommends that all States that have not done so, should consider becoming Parties to UNCLOS and the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of that Convention.

8. The Commission notes that, although significant progress has been made in developing global and regional agreements and programmes of action related to the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas, much more needs to be done to effectively implement these agreements and programmes. To promote this, the Commission invites relevant intergovernmental bodies to review, in accordance with their respective mandates, the status of international agreements and programmes of action in their areas of work, as well as obstacles to more effective implementation, and to propose possible actions that could be taken to promote wider acceptance and implementation.



Courtesy: IUCN

##### 3. Areas of particular concern

###### Marine resources

###### Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

9. The Commission notes that fisheries and aquaculture, when managed sustainably, can contribute significantly to global food security and income generation for both present and future generations, consistent with the Rome Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the World

\* Seventh Session. See also page 91.

Food Summit of 1996. The Commission urges the international community to support coastal and island developing States in the development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

10. The Commission encourages all States, unless they have already done so, to consider becoming Parties to, or, as the case may be, applying the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas of 24 November 1993, the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of 4 August 1995, and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of 31 October 1995, and emphasizes both the vital role of these instruments in safeguarding fish stocks and the need to implement them effectively.

11. In support of implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Commission welcomes the recent approval by the FAO Committee on Fisheries of:

- (a) The International Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Long Line Fisheries;
- (b) The International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks;
- (c) The International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity.

The Commission in consequence urges the early formal adoption of these International Plans of Action and their effective implementation.

12. The Commission noted that further attempts were made in the course of its discussions to resolve the other questions of subsidies related to fisheries, but that no progress was made.

13. The Commission further emphasizes the important role of RFOs in improving, where appropriate, the application of the principles contained in the instruments referred to in paragraphs 10 and 11. In doing so, these organizations should be urged to apply sound scientific knowledge of the fish stocks and to ensure, as appropriate, the involvement of major groups.

14. The Commission notes the need for RFOs to be strengthened and the need to ensure coverage by the RFO system of all fisheries which need to be managed in that way to ensure their sustainability.

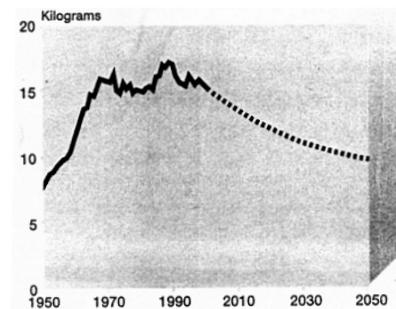
15. To support this, the Commission invites regional fisheries organizations, including those operating under the aegis of FAO, to provide information to FAO on progress made and on problems faced in applying these principles and recommendations. Such information could be included in the reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

16. The Commission urges States to implement existing FAO technical recommendations to minimize waste, by-catch and discards. The Commission strongly supports further measures by States, in consultation with FAO and RFOs, as appropriate, on these issues. The Commission also invites FAO to develop an international action plan to eliminate destructive fishing practices, and urges States to enforce existing bans on such activities.

17. The Commission also emphasizes the importance of UN General Assembly resolution 53/33 of 24 November 1998, which urges all authorities of members of the international community to take greater enforcement responsibility to ensure full implementation of the global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net

fishing on the high seas. The Commission further invites States to develop additional measures to ban this destructive fishing gear, including the confiscation and destruction of oversize nets.

18. The Commission supports the Rome Declaration adopted by the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries (Rome, 10–11 March 1999) that



World fish catch per person, 1950–96, with projections to 2050

Courtesy: People & Planet

FAO will give priority to its work to develop a global plan of action to deal effectively with any forms of IUU fishing. This should include dealing with the problem of those States which do not fulfill their responsibilities under international law as flag States with respect to their fishing vessels, and in particular those which do not exercise effectively their jurisdiction and control over their vessels which may operate in a manner that contravenes or undermines the relevant rules of international law and international conservation and management measures. It will also require coordinated efforts by States, FAO, regional fisheries management bodies and other relevant international agencies, such as IMO, as provided in Article IV of the Code of Conduct for the Responsible Fisheries. The Commission further encourages the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in cooperation with FAO and the UN Secretariat, to consider the implications in relation to fishing vessels of the work requested in paragraph 35(a), below.

19. The Commission discussed the question of schemes for improving the information available to consumers of fish but was unable to reach a consensus.

20. The Commission encourages States to develop environmentally sound and sustainable aquaculture in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and as called for in the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit. The Commission further calls upon FAO and Governments, in consultation with major groups, to achieve environmentally sound and sustainable aquaculture, ensuring that appropriate evaluations and assessments are undertaken.

#### Other marine living resources

21. The Commission endorses the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) call to action, its renewed call to action, and its framework for action, and urges implementation of complementary actions by States, intergovernmental organizations and other bodies (in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity), non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The Commission also asks the United Nations system to provide information on progress in implementing ICRI objectives at the conclusion of the period of the current framework for action in 2003.

22. The Commission encourages States to establish and manage marine protected areas,

along with other appropriate management tools, consistent with the provisions of UNCLOS and on a basis consistent with the programme of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Jakarta Mandate in order to ensure the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable management and use of oceans.

23. The Commission calls upon RFOs and regional seas organizations to cooperate in more effective integration of sustainable fisheries management and environmental conservation measures.

24. The Commission notes the importance of protecting ecosystems and the need for further study of approaches in this context.

#### Marine Non-living Resources

25. The Commission urges support, upon the request of the State concerned, for national efforts to gain greater access to resource information and to develop appropriate policies to facilitate the exploration and exploitation, with the State's consent and in a manner consistent with the sustainability of marine living resources, of non-living marine resources within its exclusive economic zones, or to the outer limits of the continental shelf, wherever applicable.

#### Land-based activities

26. The Commission expresses its grave concern at the slow rate of progress in many aspects of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (A/51/116, annex II). In this context, the Commission welcomes the recent decision of the UNEP Governing Council on the implementation of the Programme of Action, especially the call for the Executive Director of UNEP to complete expeditiously the establishment of The Hague coordination office. The Commission emphasizes the importance of this implementation for the prevention of the pollution and degradation of the marine environment.

27. In line with the 1995 Washington Declaration on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (A/51/116, annex I, appendix II), the Commission urges the following:

- (a) That Governments, organizations of the UN system and donors cooperate to build capacities and mobilize resources for the development and implementation of national action programmes, in particular for developing countries and those with economies in transition. Partnership meetings, as described in paragraph 4, can make a contribution here;
- (b) That national and international institutions and the private sector, bilateral donors and multilateral funding agencies should accord priority to projects within national and regional programmes to implement the Programme of Action and to encourage the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support these projects;
- (c) Completion of the establishment of the clearing house mechanism to provide decision makers in all States with direct access to relevant information, practical experience and scientific and technical expertise, and to facilitate effective scientific, technical and financial cooperation as well as capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technology in the context described in paragraph 3(d);
- (d) Implementation of the Global Programme of Action by Governments and international organizations, as appropriate, will contribute to the strengthening of the UNEP regional seas programme as called for in paragraph 5.

28. The Commission reiterates the appeal to the governing bodies of the relevant United Nations agencies and programmes to review their

role in, and contribution to, the implementation of the Global Programme of Action within their respective mandates, as recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/189. The Commission further invites those organizations to provide information on progress in this regard which could, *inter alia*, be included in the reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

29. The Commission also stresses:

(a) The benefits of preparing the necessary national and local programmes within a framework of integrated coastal area management;

(b) The value of further work by relevant international organizations, in conjunction with relevant regional seas organizations, in promoting such management;

(c) The importance of supporting initiatives at the regional level to develop agreements, arrangements or programmes of action on the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities.

30. The Commission welcomes the agreement by the recent UNEP Governing Council to explore the feasibility for UNEP to convene by 2000 a global conference to address sewage as a major land-based source of pollution affecting human and ecosystem health. In this context, the Commission encourages the establishment of links between this conference and both the first intergovernmental review of the Programme of Action, planned for 2001, and related intergovernmental conferences on the sustainable management of freshwater and oceans.

31. The Commission welcomes the activities in progress under the aegis of UNEP to develop an international agreement on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and, in this respect, underlines the need to provide adequate expertise and resources for reducing their reliance on POPs, in the context mentioned in paragraph 3(d), to developing countries, including through the development and production of viable and environmentally safe alternatives. The Commission encourages further international work on the reduction of discharges, emissions and losses of hazardous substances.

#### Marine science

32. The Commission emphasizes that scientific understanding of the marine environment, including marine living resources and the effects of pollution, is fundamental to sound decision-making. Among other aspects of the global environment, this applies to the interaction between atmospheric and oceanic systems, for example, the experience with the 1997–1998 El Niño phenomenon. The Commission therefore:

(a) Regrets the lack of follow-up to its decision 4/15, reiterates those recommendations and welcomes the intention of IMO, working in partnership with other sponsoring organizations, to improve the effectiveness and inclusiveness of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), and encourages them to undertake actions recommended by the Commission in its decision 4/15. The Commission further recommends exploring the possibility of establishing means for GESAMP to interact with scientific representatives of Governments and major groups;

(b) Invites the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to consider how the support available for building scientific capacities needed for interdisciplinary, sustainable and effective management of the marine environment in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries and small island developing States, could be extended and focussed more effective-

ly. Recalling CSD decision 6/3 concerning the need for enhanced science communication processes, the Commission encourages a contribution from the forthcoming UNESCO World Science Congress on this question;

(c) Stresses the value both of the collection of reliable oceanographic data through such systems as the Global Ocean Observing System, including the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, and of periodic comprehensive scientific assessments of international waters, such as the Global International Waters Assessment, including assessments of the impact of physical and chemical changes on the health, distribution and productivity of living marine resources.

33. To improve the scientific knowledge of fish stocks, the Commission invites RFOs, within the framework of their competences, to cooperate with each other, and to consider strengthening catch surveillance, where applicable, as well as mechanisms for catch evaluation, using scientific peer review systems to improve the scientific quality of fish stock assessments, exchanging information on assessment techniques with each other and generally enhancing transparency. The Commission invites FAO to assist and support this process. The Commission also invites FAO to strengthen its global monitoring of fish stocks by increased coverage, more consistent methodologies and frequent updating of information in close cooperation with States and RFOs, as appropriate.

34. The Commission notes the impact throughout the world of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), an example of the linkage between oceans and the atmosphere, and its environmental, social and economic consequences, particularly for developing countries. The Commission welcomes the intergovernmental expert meeting held at Guayaquil, Ecuador, in November 1998, the intergovernmental meeting to be held at Lima in September 1999 and the meeting on desertification and the El Niño phenomenon to be held at La Serena, Chile, in October 1999. The Commission then:

(a) Requests the Secretary-General to gather information on all aspects of the impact of ENSO, through national reports on the implementation of Agenda 21, and to provide this information to the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on ENSO, in order to contribute to the development of the internationally concerted and comprehensive strategy towards the assessment, prevention, mitigation and rehabilitation of the damage caused by ENSO, including that to coral reefs;

(b) Decides to consider the impacts of ENSO as part of its examination of the integrated planning and management of land resources at its eighth session;

(c) Registers the importance of including the ENSO issue in the next quinquennial comprehensive review of Agenda 21, and requests the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive report on which decisions on including the ENSO issue could be based.

(d) Invites all intergovernmental agencies concerned with aspects of the oceans to consider, within their respective mandates, whether their programmes of work make sufficient allowance for considerations of the potential impact of increased climate variability, and to review through the various coordination arrangements what more needs to be done to ensure adequate understanding of the prediction and coastal and marine impacts of phenomena such as the El Niño phenomenon.

#### Other marine activities

35. The Commission:

(a) Invites IMO to develop, as a matter of urgency, measures, in binding form, where the

Members of the IMO consider it appropriate, to ensure that ships of all flag States meet international rules and standards so as to give full and complete effect to UNCLOS, especially Article 91 (Nationality of ships), as well as provisions of other relevant conventions. In this context, the Commission emphasizes the importance of further development of effective port State control.

(b) Urges that the export of wastes and other matter for the purpose of dumping at sea be stopped; the Commission further recommends that States be encouraged to become Parties to, and implement, the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter of 1972;

(c) Repeats its goal in paragraph 29 of its decision 4/15 for States that have not yet done so to become Parties to, and implement, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (1989).

(d) Discussed further the question of the right of States to prohibit the transboundary movement of hazardous and radioactive wastes and materials within their jurisdictions consistent with international law. It noted that some delegations urged the continuation of efforts to ensure that transboundary movements of such materials be undertaken in a safe and secure manner and that these delegations indicated support for the call for States that have not done so to become Parties to and implement the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management and to consider making the Irradiated Nuclear Fuel (INF) Code a mandatory instrument. However, the Commission was not able to reach a consensus on these proposals.

(e) Recommends that the international community be encouraged to cooperate fully in the various efforts in accordance with relevant international agreements, such as the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78), to assist in the prevention of the spread of harmful aquatic organisms through ships ballast water;

(f) Recommends that the programme for the development within the framework of IMO of controls on harmful anti-fouling paints used on ships should be carried out in accordance with the timetable foreseen, underlining the need to provide adequate expertise and resources to developing countries in the context mentioned in paragraph 3(d);

(g) Welcomes the activities in the International Seabed Authority on a draft mining code, including the aspect of marine environmental protection;

(h) Notes that the scrapping of ships presents an issue of concern with regard to the pollution of the environment and therefore calls on IMO to look into this issue and encourages States to ensure that responsible care is applied with regard to the disposal of decommissioned ships, taking into account the need to provide adequate expertise and resources to developing countries in the context mentioned in paragraph 3(d);

(i) Recommends that States should consider ratifying, accepting or approving annex VI to the MARPOL Convention on the control of air pollution from shipping.

(j) Recommends that, in order to reduce the environmental risks and potential damages associated with maritime transport, in particular when transiting areas which are environmentally sensitive. States should fully implement the IMO regulation for the prevention of collisions at sea.

36. The Commission, taking into account its decision 4/15, and noting the outcome of the international expert meeting on environmental practices in offshore oil and gas activities, spon-

sored by Brazil and the Netherlands and held at Noordwijk, the Netherlands, in 1997, recommends that:

- (a) The primary focus of action on the environmental aspects of offshore oil and gas operations continue to be at the national, subregional and regional levels;
- (b) In support of such action, there is a need to share information on the development and application of satisfactory environmental management systems, aimed at achieving national, subregional and regional environmental goals;
- (c) To promote the sharing of that information, to raise awareness and to provide early warning of offshore oil and gas activities and projects posing potential threats to the marine environment, further initiatives should be undertaken, involving Governments, international organizations, operators and major groups.

#### International coordination and cooperation

37. The Commission urges relevant institutions, whether national, regional or global, to enhance collaboration with each other, taking into account their respective mandates, with a view to promoting coordinated approaches, avoiding duplication of effort, enhancing effective functioning of existing organizations, and ensuring better access to information and broadening its dissemination.

38. The Commission also notes that oceans and seas present a special case as regards the need for international coordination and cooperation. The Commission therefore recommends that, building on existing arrangements, a more integrated approach is required to all legal, economic, social and environmental aspects of the oceans and seas, both at intergovernmental and inter-agency levels. To achieve this goal, the Commission:

- (a) Invites the Secretary-General to undertake measures aimed at ensuring more effective collaboration between relevant parts of the United Nations Secretariat in order to ensure better coordination of the UN work on oceans and seas;
- (b) Further requests the Secretary-General to complement his annual reports to the General Assembly with suggestions on initiatives that could be undertaken in order to improve coordination and achieve better integration, and to submit these reports well in advance of the debate in the Assembly;
- (c) Invites the Secretary-General, working in cooperation with the executive heads of relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to undertake measures aimed at improving the effectiveness of the work of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas, including through making the work of the Subcommittee more transparent and responsive to member States, for example, by organizing regular briefings on the Subcommittee activities;
- (d) Recommends that the General Assembly, bearing in mind the importance of utilizing the existing framework to the maximum extent possible, considers ways and means of enhancing the effectiveness of its annual debate on oceans and the law of the sea.

39. In order to promote improved cooperation and coordination on oceans and seas, and in particular, in the context of paragraph 38(d) above, the Commission recommends that the General Assembly establish an open-ended informal consultative process, or other processes which the GA may decide, under the aegis of the General Assembly with the sole function of facilitating the effective and constructive consideration of matters within the General Assembly's existing mandate (contained in General Assembly Resolution 49/28 of 1994) on the following basis:

#### Principles

Because of the complex and interrelated nature of the oceans, oceans and seas present a special case as regards the need for international coordination and cooperation:

1. The General Assembly is the appropriate body to provide the coordination that is needed to ensure that an integrated approach is taken to all aspects of oceans issues, at both the inter-governmental and inter-agency levels.
2. This exercise should be carried out in full accordance with UNCLOS taking into account the agreements reached at the Rio Summit, particularly chapter 17 of Agenda 21. It should also take into account the inputs provided by the Commission on Sustainable Development and other UN bodies.
3. To accomplish this goal, the General Assembly needs to give more time for the consideration and the discussion of the Secretary-General's report on Oceans and the Law of the Sea and for the preparation for the debate on this item in the plenary.
4. The creation of new institutions should be avoided. The General Assembly should work to strengthen the existing structures and mandates within the UN system. This exercise should not lead to the duplication and overlapping of current negotiations and particular debates taking place in specialized fora.
5. The role of the General Assembly is to promote coordination of policies and programmes. It is not intended that the General Assembly should pursue legal or juridical coordination among the different legal instruments. In fulfilling its coordination function, the Assembly should bear in mind the differing characteristics and needs of the different regions of the world.
6. Participation in this exercise by Member States and observers should be as broad as possible.
7. This exercise should be carried out within the annual budgetary resources of the Secretariat.

#### Practicalities

The informal consultative process referred to above or other processes which the General Assembly may decide would deliberate on the basis of the Secretary-General's report on Oceans and the Law of the Sea. Its role would be to promote a comprehensive discussion of that report and to identify particular emerging issues that would need to be considered by the General Assembly. A general focus should be on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency level should be enhanced. The informal consultative process would provide elements for the consideration of the General Assembly and for possible inclusion in the Assembly's resolutions under the "Oceans and the law of the sea" agenda item.

The informal consultative process should also take into account the recommendations made by the Commission on Sustainable Development to the General Assembly (through the ECOSOC).

The informal consultative process would take place each year for a week and would promote the participation of the different governmental agencies involved in oceans and marine issues. It would be most important to ensure appropriate input from representatives of major groups and it is suggested that this may be best achieved by organizing discussion panels.

The General Assembly should consider the optimum timing for the informal consultative process taking into account, inter alia, the desirability of facilitating attendance of experts from capitals and the needs of small delegations.

The General Assembly would review the effectiveness and utility of the process no later than four years after its establishment.

## 2. Changing Consumption and Production Patterns

### The Commission on Sustainable Development,

**Reaffirming** the Basis for Action as called for in chapter 4 of Agenda 21;

**Bearing in mind** the Statement of Commitment adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session on 27 June 1997;

**Taking fully into account** that States have common but differentiated responsibilities, as set forth in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration, and different levels of development as well as national conditions and priorities;

**Reaffirming** the Objectives and policy measures elaborated in chapters 33 and 34 of Agenda 21 in relation to financing and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies;

**Recognizing** that the implementation of sustainable consumption and production approaches suited to country-specific conditions can lead to reduced costs and improved competitiveness as well as reduced environmental impacts;

#### Decides the following:

1. The principal goals of changing consumption and production patterns should be pursued by all countries, with the developed countries taking the lead, in full accordance with Agenda 21 and paragraph 28 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, taking into account the situation of developing countries adversely affected by the process, while ensuring that all countries benefit from the process. Governments face a collective challenge that requires reaffirmed commitments, strengthened cooperation and greater efforts towards concrete action, taking into account that States have common but differentiated responsibilities in accordance with Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration. Governments, relevant international organizations, the private sector and all other major groups as defined by Agenda 21 have a role to play in changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns and need to take action to this end. Special attention should be paid to unsustainable consumption patterns among the richer segments in all countries, in particular in developed countries.

2. Developed countries should continue to take the lead in efforts to reverse unsustainable trends in consumption and production, especially those that threaten the global environment. Developing countries' priorities are to eradicate poverty, with international support for achieving poverty reduction targets as agreed in United Nations conferences and summits, and improve standards of living, including meeting basic needs and lessening the burden of external debt, while taking all possible steps to avoid environmental damage and social inequity, for the furtherance of sustainable development. Countries with economies in transition face the challenge of integrating policies to make consumption and production patterns more sustainable into the reform process, for which international support is also needed. Developed countries should therefore fulfil the commitments undertaken to reach the accepted United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product as soon as possible. This will require a reversal in the current downward trend of overall ODA as a percentage of GNP. Governments should ensure that the basic needs of the people are met.

**Priorities for future work**

3. The Commission on Sustainable Development reaffirms that poverty eradication and changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns remain the overriding issues of the Commission's work programme. These two issues are to be integrated, as appropriate, into the future themes of the work programme, in particular highlighting the linkages with agriculture, financial resources, trade and investment in 2000, and energy and transport in 2001. In this regard, consideration should be given to developments in other relevant international organizations and inter-governmental bodies. The two overriding issues should also be given due regard at the comprehensive review at the Commission's tenth session in 2002 in preparation for the ten-year review of progress since UNCED.

4. Activities under the Commission's international work programme on sustainable consumption and production patterns, adopted at its third session in 1995, should continue. In addition, the implementation of the international work programme will incorporate the following four priority areas: (a) effective policy development and implementation; (b) natural resource management and cleaner production; (c) globalization and its impacts on consumption and production patterns; and (d) urbanization and its impacts on consumption and production patterns. Progress on work and concrete results will be reported to the Commission at its tenth session in 2002.

**Effective policy development and implementation**

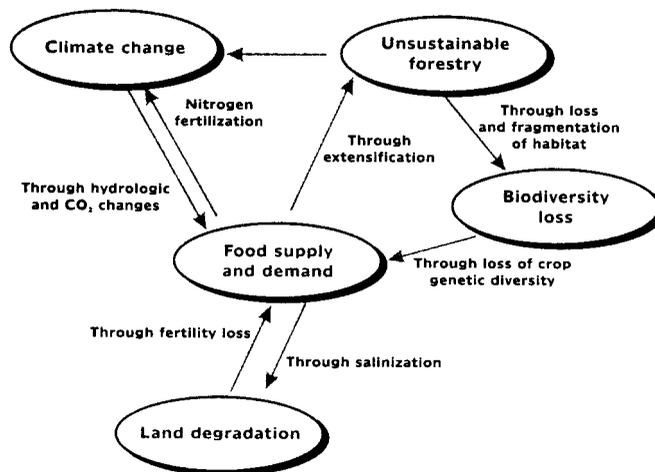
5. Governments, in cooperation with relevant international organizations and in partnership with major groups, should:

(a) Further develop and implement policies for promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, including affordable, more eco-efficient consumption and production, through disincentives for unsustainable practices and incentives for more sustainable practices. A policy mix for this purpose could include regulations, economic and social instruments, procurement policies and voluntary agreements and initiatives to be applied in the light of country-specific conditions;

(b) In order to achieve sustainable consumption and production, promote measures to internalize environmental costs and benefits in the price of goods and services, while seeking to avoid potential negative effects for market access by developing countries, particularly with a view to encouraging the use of environmentally preferable products and commodities. Governments should consider shifting the burden of taxation onto unsustainable patterns of production and consumption;

it is of vital importance to achieve such an internalization of environmental costs. Such tax reforms should include a socially responsible process of reduction and elimination of subsidies to environmentally harmful activities;

(c) Work to increase understanding of the role of advertising and mass media and marketing forces in shaping consumption and production patterns, and enhance their role in promoting sustainable development, inter alia, through voluntary initiatives and agreed guidelines;



Linkages among food production and global environmental issues

Courtesy: UNEP

(d) Develop and implement public awareness programmes with a focus on consumer education and access to information, in particular addressing youth, through inter alia integrating the issue of sustainable consumption and production into teaching curricula at all levels, as appropriate, and taking into account gender perspectives and the special concerns of older people.

(e) Improve the quality of information regarding the environmental impact of products and services and, to that end, encourage the voluntary and transparent use of eco-labelling.

(f) Further develop, test and improve the preliminary set of indicators for sustainable consumption and production developed under the Commission's work programme, focusing on the practical use of the indicators for policy development, taking into account the special needs and conditions of developing countries;

(g) Ensure that implementation of measures for the above do not result in disguised barriers to trade;

(h) Ensure that implementation of measures for the above take fully into account the ongoing deliberations in relevant international forums.

6. Developed countries should promote and facilitate the transfer of technical know-how and environmentally sound technologies, and capacity building for implementation, to developing countries, in accordance with chapter 34 of Agenda 21, and also to countries with economies in transition so as to foster more sustainable consumption and production patterns. Furthermore, private sector involvement should also be encouraged and promoted.

**Natural resource management and cleaner production**

7. Governments, in cooperation with relevant international organizations and in partnership with major groups, should:

(a) Develop and apply policies to promote public and private investments in cleaner production and the sustainable use of natural resources, including the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, in accordance with chapter 34 of Agenda 21, and also to countries with economies in transition;

(b) Collect and disseminate cost-effective best practice experiences in cleaner production and environmental management;

(c) Undertake further analysis of the costs and benefits of demand-side management and, where there is still insufficient information, of

supply-side management, including cleaner production and eco-efficiency, and assess the positive and negative impacts on developing and developed countries and countries with economies in transition;

(d) Further develop and implement, as appropriate, cleaner production and eco-efficiency policy approaches, through, inter alia, environmental management systems, integrated product policies, life-cycle management, labelling schemes and performance reporting, and in this context, taking fully into account the national circumstances and needs of the developing countries as well as the relevant ongoing deliberations of the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade and the Committee on Trade and Environment of the WTO. Best practices and results should be shared within the wider community and used

for capacity-building, in particular in small and medium-sized enterprises, including in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(e) Engage industries and economic sectors, in both public and private sectors, and all other major groups at the national and international levels, as appropriate, in activities relating to sustainable consumption and production with the objective of developing optimal strategies and/or programmes, including targets and timetables, at the appropriate levels for more sustainable consumption and production including cleaner production and affordable eco-efficiency.

8. The United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization should, inter alia, through their Cleaner Production Centres, enhance their support to enterprises, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially in the areas of auditing and certification, loan applications and financing, and the marketing of their products on international markets as well as dissemination of information on environmentally sound technology and technical know-how.

9. Recognizing that the implementation of cleaner production and eco-efficiency approaches can lead to reduced costs and improved competitiveness, as well as reduced environmental impacts, business and industry should be encouraged to implement these approaches as a contribution to the achievement of sustainable production.

**Globalization and its impacts on consumption and production patterns**

10. Governments, in cooperation with relevant international organizations and in partnership with major groups, should:

(a) Undertake studies of the impacts of globalization, including both positive and negative impacts of trade, investment, mass media, advertising and marketing in all countries, in particular developing countries. The studies should examine ways and means to mitigate negative impacts and use opportunities to promote more sustainable consumption and production patterns and open and non-discriminatory trade;

(b) Undertake studies on the role of the financial sector in promoting sustainable consump-

tion and production, and further encourage voluntary initiatives suited to national conditions for sustainable development by that sector;

(c) Increase their efforts to make policies on trade and policies on environment, including those on sustainable consumption and production, mutually supportive, without creating disguised barriers to trade;

(d) Study the benefits of traditional values and local cultures in promoting sustainable consumption.

#### Urbanization and its impacts on consumption and production patterns

11. Governments, in cooperation with relevant international organizations and in partnership with major groups, while particularly taking into account the work of the Commission on Human Settlements, should:

(a) Assess and address, in the context of sustainable development, the impacts of urbanization, in particular those related to energy, transport, sanitation, waste management and public health;

(b) Increase efforts to address the critical issues of fresh water and sanitation in human settlements in developing countries through, inter alia, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the provision of financial resources for implementation, as elaborated in Agenda 21, as a priority of the international agenda on sustainable consumption and production;

(c) Assess and address the impacts of urbanization on economic, environmental and social conditions. In-depth studies on the key determining factors of quality of life should be undertaken and used to strengthen appropriate human settlement development strategies suited to national conditions, in the context of urbanization.

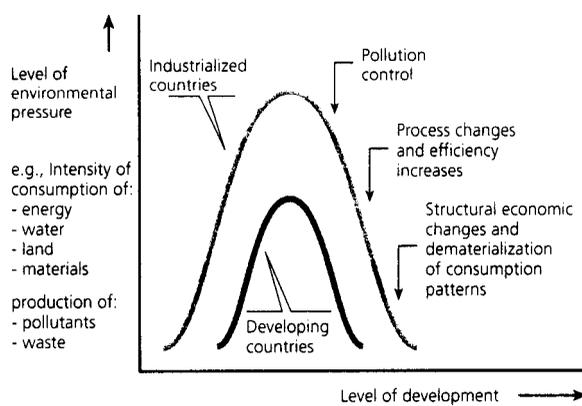
12. Governments at all levels are encouraged to incorporate sustainable consumption and production policies in city planning and management and to report to the review exercise at the tenth session of the Commission.

13. Governments at all levels, the private sector, and other major groups as defined in Agenda 21 are urged to cooperate in developing waste collection systems and disposal facilities, and developing programmes for prevention, minimization and recycling of waste, to safeguard and improve the quality of life in human settlements and coastal regions in all countries, especially in developing countries. Dissemination of positive results of the implementation of various policy instruments suitable to the national conditions and needs of developing countries can facilitate the wider application of such policies.

### 3. Tourism and Sustainable Development

#### The Commission on Sustainable Development,

Recalling the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, in particular Assembly resolution S/19-2, annex, of 28 June 1997, in paragraph 69 of which the Assembly requested the Commission on Sustainable Development to develop an action-oriented international programme of work on sustainable tourism development, to be defined in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the



Environmental transitions

Courtesy: UNEP

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant bodies; and stressed that policy development and implementation should take place in cooperation with all interested parties, especially the private sector and local and indigenous communities,

Recalling also that the General Assembly, in its resolution 53/200 of 15 December 1998, proclaimed the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism and in its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998 proclaimed 2002 also as the International Year of Mountains,

Noting with appreciation the outcome of the multi-stakeholder dialogue at the current session of the Commission and the progress made so far by major groups in promoting sustainable tourism development,

1. **Decides** to adopt an international work programme on sustainable tourism development, containing the elements outlined below and to begin its implementation with appropriate means and resources, especially for developing countries, which will be reviewed in 2002 when the ten-year review of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development will be carried out;

2. **Urges** Governments:

(a) To advance sustainable tourism development, inter alia, through the development and implementation of policies and national strategies or master plans for sustainable tourism development based on Agenda 21, which will encourage their tourism industry, assist in attracting foreign direct investment and appropriate environmentally sound technologies, and also provide focus and direction for the active participation of major groups, including national tourism councils and, as appropriate, tourism agencies and organizations, and the private sector as well as indigenous and local communities;

(b) To consult, as appropriate, with all major groups and local communities in the tourism development process, including policy formulation, planning, management and sharing of benefits, which could reflect the need to harmonize the relationship among the people, the community and the environment;

(c) To work in partnership with major groups, especially at the local level, to ensure active participation in tourism-related planning and development;

(d) To undertake capacity-building work with indigenous and local communities in order to facilitate their active participation, at all levels of the tourism development process, including transparent decision-making and sharing of benefits,

and to create awareness of the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits that they are bearing;

(e) To create the appropriate institutional, legal, economic, social and environmental framework by developing and applying a mix of instruments, as appropriate, such as integrated land-use planning and coastal zone management, economic instruments, social and environmental impact assessment for tourist facilities, including gender aspects, and voluntary initiatives and agreements;

(f) To maximize the potential of tourism for eradicating poverty by developing appropriate strategies in cooperation with all major groups, and indigenous and local communities;

(g) To welcome the major groups' agreement to promote sustainable tourism development through music,

art and drama and to participate in such educational activities;

(h) To facilitate destination-specific in-flight educational videos and other materials on sustainable development in relation to tourism and to encourage airline carriers to routinely screen such videos on all international and long-haul domestic routes;

(i) To promote a favourable framework for small and medium-sized enterprises, the major engine for job creation in the tourism sector, by reducing administrative burdens, facilitating access to capital and providing training in management and other skills, in recognition of the employment potential of sustainable tourism development;

(j) To take strong and appropriate action, through the development and enforcement of specific legislation/measures, against any kind of illegal, abusive or exploitative tourist activity, including sexual exploitation/abuse, in recognition of the fact that such activities have particularly adverse impacts and pose significant social, health and cultural threats, and that all countries have a role to play in the efforts to stamp them out;

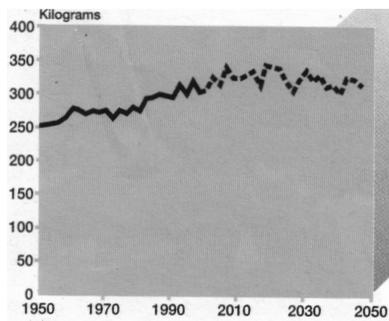
(k) To participate in international and regional processes that address issues relevant to sustainable tourism development; to consider the ratification or adoption, and promote the implementation and enforcement, as appropriate, of standards or guidelines relevant to the travel and tourism industry, such as in the labour and health fields; and to support initiatives, especially through organizations like the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization, that would make an early and positive contribution to sustainable tourism development;

(l) To support appropriate measures to better inform tourists about cultural, ecological and other values and provide accurate information on the safety of tourist destinations, so as to enable consumers to make informed choices;

3. **Calls upon** the tourism industry:

(a) To develop environmentally, socially and culturally compatible forms of tourism and to continue the development and implementation of voluntary initiatives in support of sustainable tourism development, bearing in mind that such forms of tourism and initiatives should meet, or preferably exceed, relevant local, national, regional or international standards;

(b) To further commit itself to the goal of sustainable tourism development by working towards guiding principles and objectives for sustainable tourism development and information



World grain production per person with projections to 2050

Courtesy: People & Planet

for tourists on ecological and cultural values in destination regions;

(c) To further develop voluntary eco-efficiency and appropriate management systems to save costs and to promote sustainable forms of tourism;

(d) To take effective steps to reduce the volume of waste associated with travel and tourism activities;

(e) To "design with nature" in collaboration with planning authorities, by using low impact designs, materials and technologies, so as not to damage the environmental or cultural assets that tourists seek to experience and that sustain the local community, and to undertake measures to restore tourist destinations with degraded environments;

(f) To distance itself publicly from illegal, abusive or exploitive forms of tourism;

(g) To meet or preferably exceed relevant national or international labour standards;

4. **Invites**, as appropriate, Governments and major groups, as well as the United Nations system, in close collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, while building on relevant work carried out by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Development Programme and under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant conventions and organizations, and taking note of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,<sup>1</sup> adopted at Barbados in 1994, to consider undertaking the following initiatives and to keep the Commission on Sustainable Development informed on progress achieved:

(a) To promote sustainable tourism development in order to increase the benefits from the tourism resources for the population in the host communities and maintain the cultural and environmental integrity of the host community; to encourage cooperation of major groups at all levels with a view to facilitating Local Agenda 21 initiatives and promoting linkages within the local economy in order that benefits may be more widely shared; to this end, greater efforts should be undertaken for the employment of the local workforce, and the use of local products and skills;

(b) To support national efforts by countries, especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and major groups to-

wards sustainable tourism development through relevant capacity-building activities and programmes as well as multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance, and appropriate technologies in all aspects of sustainable tourism development, including environmental impact assessment and management and education in the field of tourism;

(c) To encourage more responsible behaviour among tourists through ensuring respect for national laws, cultural values, social norms and tradition as well as by increasing public awareness, in addition to other measures;

(d) To promote the application of integrated planning approaches to tourism development at the local level, including through encouraging the use of Local Agenda 21 as a process for planning, implementing and monitoring sustainable tourism development and recognizing the potential for integration of Local Agenda 21 with Agenda 21 for the Travel and Tourism Industry as well as other such initiatives;

(e) To provide relevant direction on research activities, and collect and disseminate information on best practices and techniques, including an appropriate mix of instruments to minimize negative and to promote positive environmental, social and cultural impacts from tourism in developed and developing countries and in countries with economies in transition;

(f) To promote the exchange of information on transportation, accommodation and other services, public awareness raising programmes and education, and various voluntary initiatives and ways to minimize the effects of natural disasters on tourism. Possible forms of this information exchange should be explored in consultation with relevant partners, utilizing, inter alia, such means as bilateral and multi-lateral arrangements;

(g) To undertake studies on appropriate measures for promoting sustainable tourism development, such as community planning in fragile ecosystems, including in coastal areas, and to develop tools to assist local authorities in determining appropriate management regimes and their capacity for tourism development;

(h) To further develop or support integrated initiatives, preferably through pilot projects, to enhance the diffusion of innovations and to avoid, wherever possible, duplication and waste of resources;

(i) To undertake activities that would be supportive of the preparations for both the International Year of Ecotourism and the International Year of Mountains, as well as activities of the International Coral Reef Initiative;

(j) To clarify further the concepts of sustainable tourism and ecotourism;

(k) To develop core indicators for sustainable tourism development, taking into account the work of the World Tourism Organization and other relevant organizations, as well as the ongoing testing phase of indicators for sustainable development;

(l) To undertake a comprehensive survey and assessment of the results of implementing existing voluntary initiatives and guidelines relating to the economic, sociocultural and environmental sustainability of tourism, to be reported to the Commission on Sustainable Development in order to identify best practices with respect to raising awareness of sustainable tourism development;

(m) To consider establishing a global network, taking into account the work of the World Tourism Organization, regional mechanisms and all major groups, as appropriate, to promote an exchange of information and views on sustainable tourism development, including on ecotourism;

(n) To cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme in further developing guiding principles for sustainable tourism development;

(o) To encourage business and industry to take steps to implement eco-efficiency approaches, in order to reduce environmental impacts associated with travel and tourism activities, in particular the volume of packaging waste, especially in small island developing States;

5. **Invites** the World Tourism Organization to consider informed major groups' participation, as appropriate, in the development, implementation and monitoring of its Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, including those provisions relating to a code of conduct for tourists;

6. **Invites** relevant agencies, particularly the International Maritime Organization, to evaluate whether existing regulations on marine pollution and compliance with them are sufficient to provide adequate protection to fragile coastal zones from adverse impacts as a result of tourist vessel activities;

7. **Invites** the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to further consider, in the context of the process of the exchange of experiences, existing knowledge and best practice on sustainable tourism development and biological diversity with a view to contributing to international guidelines for activities related to sustainable tourism development in vulnerable terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems and habitats of major importance for biological diversity and protected areas, including fragile mountain ecosystems;

8. **Welcomes** the work of major groups, especially the business community, trade and tourism industry associations, non-governmental organizations and other groups involved in travel and tourism, to contribute to efforts to achieve sustainable tourism development, including through educational initiatives and action plans based on Agenda 21 and other related documents, and particularly welcomes their commitment through the continuation of their work with all major groups, to do more, and to report to the Commission on Sustainable Development on their progress;

9. **Invites** the United Nations Secretariat and the World Tourism Organization, in consultation with major groups and other relevant international organizations, to jointly facilitate the establishment of an ad hoc informal open-ended working group on tourism to assess financial leakages and determine how to maximize benefits for indigenous and local communities; and to prepare a joint initiative to improve information availability and capacity-building for participation, and address other matters relevant to the implementation of the international work programme on sustainable tourism development.

#### 4. Education, Public Awareness and Training

The Commission on Sustainable Development, **Recalling** its Decision 4/11 establishing a Work Programme on Education for Sustainable Development and its Decision 6/3 on the further implementation of this Work Programme;

**Taking note** of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>1</sup>;

**Reaffirming** that education, public awareness and training are critical for promoting sustainable development and increasing the capacity to address social, economic and environmental issues, and that therefore the further implementation of Chapter 36 of Agenda 21 will

<sup>1</sup> Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>1</sup> E/CN.17/1999/11.

influence the progress made in the implementation of all the other chapters of Agenda 21;

**Emphasizing**, having discussed the issues of "Oceans and Seas", "Consumption and Production Patterns" and "Tourism", that enhancing public awareness, through education and training and the media is particularly important for achieving sustainable development;

**Recognizing** the need to broaden cooperation at the international level, building on past experience, and involving all relevant bodies of the United Nations system, governments and major groups, including non-governmental organizations, business and industry, youth as well as the educational community, taking into account national plans and priorities;

**Taking into account** the cross-sectoral nature and the importance of education, public awareness and training for sustainable development;

Therefore:

1. **Calls upon** all key actors, notably UNESCO as task manager, governments, relevant UN bodies and non-governmental organizations, to intensify their collaborative efforts in the implementation of the Work Programme.
2. **Encourages** governments, the relevant UN bodies and non-governmental organizations to give priority, as appropriate, to the integration of aspects of sustainable development in their educational policies and to cooperation in the framework of the Work Programme.
3. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to CSD-VIII on the progress made in the implementation of the Work Programme and, in this regard, give specific attention to the separate items contained in Decision 4/11 of CSD-IV and Decision 6/3 of CSD-VI.

### 5. Information Provided by Governments and Exchange of National Experiences

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development:

(a) Takes note with satisfaction of the Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Oceans and Seas: Trends in National Implementation"<sup>2</sup> as well as the background documents prepared by the National Information Analysis Unit in fulfillment of CSD decision 6/5<sup>3</sup>;

(b) Welcomes the continued interest of governments to make voluntary national presentations within the framework of the sessions of the Commission;

(c) Stresses the importance of continuing to take full advantage of the information provided by Governments to the Commission, on a voluntary basis, especially in view of the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21, to take place in 2002;

(d) Emphasizes the need to draw more fully on the information contained in those national reports or relevant information for voluntary submission to the Commission;

(e) Recognizes that the lack of human, technical or financial resources at national level could be hindering the submission of more voluntary national reports or relevant information;

(f) Recognizes further the need to improve the guidelines for the elaboration of national reports

to the Commission and to determine the best way to carry on with this exercise after the year 2002; and notes that this issue should be considered as a part of the discussion on information for decision-making which is on the agenda of CSD9;

(g) Recognizes further that a number of member States have expressed their interest in having their national reports or relevant information presented in the UN National Information website in languages other than those currently available;

2. The Commission:

(a) Encourages Governments to continue providing voluntary national reports or relevant information on the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level and at the regional level, as appropriate, with the broad involvement of all sectors of society, and invites those Governments that have not yet done so to submit their national reports or relevant information.

(b) Calls upon the international community, in particular the developed countries, to continue supporting the efforts of developing countries for capacity-building, including in the area of elaboration, translations and dissemination of voluntary reporting, by providing technical and financial assistance in accordance with the provisions of Agenda 21 and the Programme for its further Implementation<sup>4</sup>;

(c) Requests UNDP to consider assisting developing countries in the elaboration, translation and dissemination of their national reports by, inter alia, allocating funds for these purposes and by including in its current Capacity 21 National Programmes and its Sustainable Development Networking Programme specific references and resources for these purposes;

(d) Requests the Secretariat, in conformity with CSD decision 6/5 para 2c, to continue processing and compiling, on a sectoral basis, the information provided by governments and requests the task managers of the sectoral areas to make more comprehensive use of this information in the preparation of the reports to the Commission at its future sessions, in accordance with the issues contained in the multi-year programme of work of the Commission, 1998-2002;

(e) Requests the CSD Secretariat to further enhance the "National Information Website" by posting national reports or relevant information as submitted by the countries in any of the UN official languages;

(f) Requests the CSD Secretariat to invite governments to submit proposals on how to improve the guidelines for the elaboration of national reports and, based on the information received, to prepare a report to be submitted to the Commission as a part of the preparations for the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21;

(g) Requests further the CSD Secretariat to undertake measures to prepare a new version of the country profiles complementing those presented during the five-year review in 1997 for submission to the General Assembly for the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21 for the year 2002.

### 6. Resolution on Voluntary Initiatives and Agreements

#### The Commission on Sustainable Development:

**Recalling** the interactive dialogue that took place between Governments, industry, trade unions, nongovernmental organizations and international organizations in the industry segment organized during its sixth session in 1998<sup>1</sup> and its decision 6/2 regarding the "potential value of a review of voluntary initiatives and agreements"

**Noting** the report of the Secretary-General<sup>2</sup> on the inter-sessional consultative process convened in Toronto, Canada, in March 1999, involving representatives of industry, trade unions, nongovernmental organizations, international organizations and Governments, aimed at identifying elements of a review of voluntary initiatives and agreements launched in follow-up to its decision 6/2 in 1998;

**Recognizes** that voluntary initiatives and agreements should complement regulatory frameworks and other policy instruments, and foster continuous improvement in all aspects of sustainable development.

**Recognizes** the potential value of processes which involve governments and all relevant major groups and other stakeholders for addressing sustainable development issues and encourages future work on voluntary initiatives and agreements;

**Encourages** all relevant major groups and other stakeholders, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, to continue generating information about voluntary initiatives and agreements, including the most appropriate means for possible reviews, and to make this information widely available, and requests its secretariat to facilitate these efforts, inter alia, through its Internet site;

**Stresses** the need for better understanding and analysis of the possible impact of voluntary initiatives and agreements on developing countries, and requests all relevant major groups and other stakeholders to report periodically, through the Commission's secretariat, on steps they have taken on progress they have made in assisting developing countries to understand and make use of, as appropriate, the lessons to be learned from the use of voluntary initiatives and agreements;

**Takes note** of the key elements discussed by the various major groups at the Toronto meeting and encourages further dialogue among all relevant major groups and other stakeholders on voluntary initiatives and agreements and information products, for example the toolkit proposed by the International Chamber of Commerce, that may assist countries and interested organizations in understanding the uses and potential value of voluntary initiatives and agreements in the context of sustainable development;

**Requests** the Commission's secretariat to ensure wider participation by the developing countries in the inter-sessional consultative processes;

**Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its eighth session on the progress and developments in this area. □

<sup>2</sup> Doc. E/CN. 17/1999/4/Add.1

<sup>3</sup> Doc. E/CN. 17/1998/20.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution S-19/2.

<sup>1</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 9 (E/1998/29), chap. II.

<sup>2</sup> E/CN.17/1999/12.