

Seventh Session: Tourism, Oceans and Consumption Patterns

The seventh session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD, met at UN Headquarters in New York from 19–30 April, 1999. The Commission is charged with monitoring the implementation of Agenda 21, the programme of action adopted at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). At its nineteenth special session, in June 1997, the General Assembly

adopted the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21, recommending measures to improve implementation of the document, which aims at reshaping human activities to minimize environmental damage and ensure sustainability in the development process.

The main agenda items for the seventh session concerned the economic theme of tourism, the sectoral theme of oceans and seas and the cross-sectoral theme of

consumption and production patterns. Delegates also discussed preparations for the UN General Assembly's Special Session to review the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Representatives of States members of the Commission attended the session. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for the European Community, representatives of organisations of the UN



system, secretariats of treaty bodies, as well as observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organisations. It was organised in a way to allow for general debate and interactive thematic dialogues.

The seventh session marked a departure from procedure in previous years, reflecting the call from the sixth session for a more dynamic and participatory process. This involved setting time limits for national statements in order to preserve roughly half the time available on each theme for interactive dialogue. This approach worked well, with many participants indicating that there was greater value in interactive dialogue than a more sterile process involving lengthy prepared statements.

Each dialogue followed the same format: there were opening statements by each of the four groups, followed by two country presentations after which there was an interactive segment.

The session opened with its Chairman, *Simon Upton* (New Zealand), saying that the session should produce modest, practical and achievable recommendations that furthered the implementation of Agenda 21. He said the Commission's purpose was not to negotiate, but to illuminate. There was no point in spending energy on creating draft decisions that would leave everyone uninspired. The Chairman hoped the Commission would produce short texts with a few important recommendations, as producing grandiose texts that were impossible to implement was a complete waste of time.

In his introductory remarks, *Nitin Desai*, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, said the world was expecting the Commission to move forward to ensure a unified approach to ocean management. When it came to the planet's oceans and seas, he said, there was a tendency to focus on particular issues. Agenda 21 was the only place where all aspects of oceans were addressed together. The current session

should lead to advances in arrangements to ensure the sustainable use of oceans.

On sustainable tourism, *Nitin Desai* stressed that a wide array of issues were involved. Those were being taken up by the tourist industry and State leaders and he hoped the Commission would develop an active programme of work between the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies, such as the World Tourism Organisation.

Presentations were then made by the Co-Chairman of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Consumption and Production Patterns and on Tourism, *Navid Hanif* (Pakistan), and the Co-Chairman of the Intersessional Ad Hoc Working Group of Oceans and Seas, *Alan Simcock* (UK). A report was also delivered on the status of ongoing informal consultations on the sustainable development of Small Island developing States.

In addition, the Commission heard statements concerning voluntary initiatives taken to implement the decisions of the Commission's sixth session, from the representatives of Canada and Switzerland.

The Chairman recalled that the Commission had elected its Bureau in May and June of last year. The Commission elected by acclamation *Sandor Mozes* (Hungary) to replace *Tibor Farago* (Hungary) as Vice-Chairman, who was unable to serve. It adopted its agenda and programme of work.

Reports of the Ad Hoc Working Groups

The Commission heard presentations on the outcome of the work of the inter-sessional ad hoc working groups.

The Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Consumption and Production Patterns and on Tourism (E/CN.17/1996/16) suggests possible elements for a draft decision of the Commission on changing consumption and production patterns. The report suggests that industrialised countries 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 should be to eradicate poverty and improve standards of living, including meeting basic needs, while avoiding environmental damage and social inequity.

The report recommends that the implementation of the international work programme incorporate the following priority areas: effective policy development and implementation; natural resource management and cleaner production; globalisation and its impacts on consumption and production patterns; and urbanisation and its impacts on consumption and production patterns. Progress on work and concrete results in this area will be reported to the Commission at its tenth session in 2002.

The report goes on to say that the Commission might also wish to request that governments take a number of actions in relation to production and consumption, including:

- Develop further policies for promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns through disincentives for unsustainable practices and incentives for more sustainable practices;
- Consider a range of economic instruments, including fiscal instruments, and the gradual phasing out of environmentally harmful subsidies, in order to internalize environmental costs and promote sustainable consumption and production; and
- Work to increase understanding of the role of advertising and mass media in shaping consumption and production patterns, and enhance their role in promoting sustainable development through, among other things, voluntary initiatives and agreed guidelines.

The report also contains possible elements for a draft decision on the topic of tourism. Under the terms of such a draft decision, the Commission would decide to adopt an international work programme on sustainable tourism development to be implemented between the current session and 2002. It would call upon governments to advance sustainable tourism development policies that would encourage their tourism industry and assist in attracting foreign investment and environmentally sound technologies. The decision would call upon the tourism industry to develop new forms of socially, culturally and environmentally compatible forms of tourism.

By the text, the Commission would also invite governments to:

- promote long-term sustainable tourism development that increases the economic and educational benefits from the tourism resources and maintains the cultural and environmental integrity of the host community;
- undertake studies on appropriate measures for promoting sustainable tourism development and to clarify further the concept and definition of sustainable tourism and of ecotourism;
- develop indicators for sustainable tourism, taking into account the work of the World Tourism Organisation, as well as an ongoing testing phase of indicators for sustainable development; and
- consider establishing a global network to promote an exchange of information and views on ecotourism and to elaborate a comprehensive set of guidelines for sustainable development, which could be approved by the United Nations by 2002.

The report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Oceans and Seas and on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/CN.17/1999/17), contains the possible elements for a draft decision by the Commission, which could serve as a starting point for further deliberations and negotiations during its current session. Among those suggestions, the report states that the Commission could emphasise the fundamental fact that oceans and seas constitute the major part of the planet that supports life, drives the climate and hydrological cycle, and provides the vital resources to be used to eradicate poverty and to ensure food security, economic prosperity and well-being for present and future generations.

The report goes on to say that the Commission could also stress that action should be taken on the basis of the precautionary approach, the “polluter-pays” approach and the eco-system approach, and that, building on the outcome of the sixth session of the Commission, action should also take into account the best available scientific knowledge. Following the 1998 International Year of the Ocean, the Commission could emphasise the importance of international cooperation in ensuring that biological diversity is conserved through integrated management. The Commission could further emphasise the threats to such objectives from the over-exploitation of marine living resources and pollution.

Other recommendations include action by the Commission in regard to: the marine environment; the scientific knowledge of fish stocks; the export of wastes and dumping; the environmental aspects of offshore oil and gas operations; and international coordination and cooperation.

Dialogue on Sustainable Tourism

This segment was designed to generate dialogue between governments, representatives from industry, trades unions, local authorities, non-governmental organisations and other participating major groups, as well as international organisations.

It focused on four topics: industry initiatives for sustainable tourism; changing consumer behaviour; promoting broad-based sustainable development through tourism while safeguarding the integrity of local cultures and protecting the environment; and the coastal impact of tourism.

The Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the topic (document E/CN.17/1999/5 and Add.1–3), which states that the tourism industry, one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the global economy, has important economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts. Its continuing growth has important implications for the achievement of sustainable development, particularly in Small Island developing States and tourist destinations with fragile ecological environments.

In recent decades, tourism in the global economy has grown rapidly, consistently outstripping annual growth rates for world gross national product (GNP), world merchandise exports and world trade in services. As a result, the share of international tourism in global economic activity has risen steadily: in 1997, global tourism activities accounted for about 1.54 per cent of world GNP, 8 per cent of world merchandise exports by value and 35 per cent of the value of world exports of services. One of the major economic impacts of this rapid expansion in international tourism has been significant employment creation.

The predicted growth in international tourism raises fresh concerns about the impact of tourism development on the environment. Policy coordination and cooperation at the international level is needed to address the global environmental impacts of tourism, as well as issues of

The Policy Matrix		Using Markets	Creating Markets	Environmental Regulations	Engaging the Public
		(Subsidy reduction, taxes, user fees, performance bonds, targeted subsidies)	(Property rights and decentralization, tradable permits, international offset systems)	(Standards, bans, quotas)	(Information disclosure, public participation)
Resource Management	Water				
	Fisheries				
	Land Management				
	Forests				
	Sustainable Agriculture				
	Biodiversity/ Prot. Areas				
Pollution Control	Minerals				
	Air Pollution				
	Water Pollution				
	Solid Waste				
	Hazardous Waste				

Source: World Bank. 1997. *Five Years after Rio: Innovations in Environmental Policy: Washington, DC.*
 Courtesy: *Protecting Our Planet – Securing Our Future*

biological diversity, coastal area management and ecotourism.

The report states that the international community also has an important role to play in assisting developing countries to develop a range of meaningful and effective planning guidelines, codes of good practice, regulatory frameworks and policy provisions aimed at achieving sustainable tourism. Such assistance is crucial for the development of integrated national tourism policies. A further challenge for the international community is to help countries to raise progressively environmental standards and to adopt technologies that enhance environmental protection without unduly reducing the competitiveness of tourism enterprises.

The report goes on to say that the central challenge for the tourism industry is to transform itself into a sustainable activity by reorienting corporate philosophy, practice and ethics to promote sustainable development through better environmental management and practices and close partnerships with government and civil society. Therefore it is vital that the tourism industry involve all stakeholders – customers, staff, training partners and the host community – in decision-making. To this end, it should develop partnerships with the host community, governments and private sector companies to enhance the prospects for bringing about the sustainable development of tourism.

On the challenges for national governments, the report states that governments need to promote tourism development in a manner that will maximize its positive influence, while minimizing its negative impact on the natural environment. An appropriate balance needs to be

established between the goals of sustainable tourism development and environmental protection.

According to the report, the lack of an adequate tourism infrastructure is a serious obstacle to tourism development in all countries. When undertaking the development of major infrastructure – such as road networks and water systems – governments must ensure that they cater not only to the needs of the tourism sector, but also to the needs of other industries and the local community. Another important area of action for governments is to develop national strategies or master plans for tourism that will provide focus and direction to all stakeholders.

With regard to the International Year of Ecotourism in 2002, the Commission has been requested to recommend to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, supportive measures and activities that will contribute to a successful year.

There are three addenda to the report, which expand on the basic ideas of the Secretary General’s report, discussing economic, social and environmental policy challenges.

This report can bring only a very short selection, in summary, of the contributions made by the many speakers who took part in the various discussions and dialogues. The extracts have been chosen on the basis of the arguments more often put forward by the different regional groups.

Discussion

Geoffrey Lipman, President of the World Travel and Tourism Council, said that travel and tourism could be

the positive change agent for sustainable development in the next millenium and the United Nations should play a key role in that regard. Tourism could be a catalyst for sustainable development because of several factors: its powerful economic, social and ecological contribution and potential; its growing relevance to all nations, particularly emerging States; and the changing culture of travel. Tourism was the world's largest industry, driving directly and indirectly more than 10 per cent of the global gross domestic product, trade, investment and jobs.

Leroy Trotman, representing trades unions, said that in 1997 trades unions, business and governments had negotiated a series of agreements touching on the hotel industry, through the International Labour Organization (ILO). Some of the major agreements related to vocational training, core level standards, child labour and child prostitution, and access to technical assistance for developing countries. Those principles had been recognised by Agenda 21, and reinforced by the ILO in its promotion of sustainable labour standards. The agreements could be used as a point of departure.

Beate Weber, Mayor of Heidelberg in Germany, said tourism was one possible way to improve socio-economic development and was a key branch for reaching the global target of sustainable development. If tourism was to have a future, it must not destroy what residents and visitors loved and appreciated about cities such as Heidelberg. For tourism, a sound environment and nature were the most important bases of its existence.

Indira Khurana, Centre for Science and Environment, speaking on behalf of the non-governmental organisations, said the impact of tourism has varied greatly, as the industry ranged from transnational enterprises to community-owned enterprises deep in the Amazon. Such diversity required differing approaches.

Mark Hambley (United States), said that there seemed to be numerous guidelines for sustainable tourism, but implementation of them had been unclear and unreliable. The Commission might want to examine existing guidelines and in 2002 question whether there was a need to create a new set of guidelines.

Dialogue on Industry Initiatives

Introducing this discussion, the Chairman said that a number of such initiatives were already in place. These included: voluntary self-regulation efforts at national and international levels, including certification and codes of conduct; consideration of the Green Globe guidelines to ensure development of a multi-stakeholder advisory group; and the continued implementation of the 1997 ILO agreements.

A representative from industry said the green globe initiative for certification was a standard to which tourism companies could be held. Such certification was done by an independent auditing company without vested interests.

However, an NGO representative said that while green globe was a good start, the Commission should

invite all certification initiatives to join an evaluation process. Several private and public initiatives were of equal importance, although not under discussion in the present dialogue. Green globe, which tended to look at the industry from one angle, did not replace regulatory frameworks, the representative said.

A country representative said that industries in developing countries were not adequately represented in the discussion. Industries often made unreasonable demands on developing countries. There was a need for guidelines that could be applied and re-applied by industry in their practices. Developing countries were often pressured by industry, with suggestions that if regulations were imposed the industry would leave.

A local government representative gave an example of the benefits of local authorities being at the head of sustainable tourism strategies. In Brazil, local authorities, with non-governmental organisations and the local tourism industry were administering the largest rainforest park in the world. In less than two months of joint administration, the improvements had been significant.

Another representative of local authorities suggested possible elements for the final decision on the issue to be adopted by the Commission. In the discussion there had been consensus that multi-stakeholder collaboration must be sensitive to and inclusive of local governments, which represented local values and interests. That should be inserted into the text, with an indication that a local Agenda 21 be included as the mechanism for that purpose.

The Chairman asked for advice from the major groups on how the Commission could focus its attention. He would be reporting the outcome to ministers at the high-level segment. What could or should industry do over and above those initiatives already in place? He asked. If they did that, what would local and central government need to do to make it worth their while?

A speaker for industry said there was a need for an agreed overall policy framework that implemented Agenda 21 on a regional, national and international basis. Industry also supported the following points: that tourist programmes and projects should reflect market and non-market elements; that public-private partnerships should be used in all tourism efforts; and that consumer awareness programmes should be instituted. The Commission should support areas where joint programmes could be created. Industry would like to see annual reviews and reporting on all those efforts.

A representative of local authorities said, among other things, there should be support for initiatives that encouraged accountability in preparing tourism projects. Industry should make tourism financially attractive for the local community by, *inter alia*, hiring local workers.

A speaker for NGOs said that sustainable tourism policies must take into account the needs of indigenous communities at all levels of the planning and development process. Industry and local authorities should support the education and training of local communities to improve their capacity to benefit tourism. Governments should develop a plan to improve indigenous peoples' access to

natural resources in tourist areas. The international community should develop an international system for protecting the rights of indigenous peoples comprehensive land and natural resource rights.

On the coastal impact of tourism, industry proposed that the Commission sponsor and seek funding by international agencies and governments to integrate Agenda 21 for Travel and Tourism with Local Agenda 21s.

The representatives from trades unions called for comprehensive impact studies to be prepared for coastal development projects and application of the preventive and precautionary principles in planning and management.

NGOs said that tourism must be carefully planned according to compatible land uses and water and coastal zone management.

In conclusion, all major groups supported pilot projects on sustainable tourism in coastal areas. Industry said tourism is crucial for coastal development and should be accorded a high profile in the context of integrated coastal zone management.

Participants also underlined the impacts of cruise ships on coastal areas and discussed their use of flags of convenience, stressing that such flags should not be used to avoid international regulations on marine pollution and that the CSD should advise relevant international organisations to investigate enforcement of these regulations and address loopholes.

World Population Projected to 2150 and Underlying Fertility Assumptions, United Nations 1996 Projections

	2150 Population (in billions)	Assumed Total Fertility Rate in 2050–2055
Low	3.6	1.6
Medium-Low	6.4	1.9
Middle	10.8	2.1
Medium-High	18.3	2.3
High	27.0	2.6

Source: United Nations Population Division, *World Population Projections to 2150*. United Nations, New York, 1998.

Courtesy: *People & The Planet*

The Chairman then produced a summary of the discussion, highlighting its main aspects. He also produced a summary of the dialogue, which was included in the report of the Commission's seventh session – E/CN.17/1999/L.4/Add.2.

High-Level Segment

This segment, which was held from 21–23 April, focused on the following subjects: tourism; oceans and seas; a plan of action for the small island developing

States; changing consumption and production patterns; and challenges for the future and other matters.

The high-level segment attracted 89 ministers, more than any previous Commission meeting and all participated actively in the dialogue. There were also a large number of other representatives from national Governments; UN organisations; other international organisations; and representatives of major groups, all of whom made a substantive contribution.

Simon Khaya Moyo, Minister of Mines, Environment and Tourism of Zimbabwe, said that as the fastest growing industry, tourism remained a challenge in the quest for achieving sustainable development. It was one of his country's primary sources for earning foreign currency and employment, and for eradicating poverty.

Rocio Vasquez, Minister of Tourism of Ecuador, said her country was multicultural and rich with biodiversity. Ecotourism was the best valid alternative to promote sustainable development in terms of economy, environment and social welfare. Her Government had embarked on a number of initiatives in that regard. It was promoting inter-institutional agreements for each eco-region, as well as programmes to encourage national ecotourism and strategies to preserve biological and cultural diversity through intersectoral plans and impact studies. The active participation of non-governmental organisations in such efforts was important, she said. Economic benefits from ecotourism would go to areas that were involved, she added.

Jan Szyszko, Minister for Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry of Poland, said coastal zones, mountains and forests were being exposed to the pressure of millions of tourists.

He hoped the Commission's seventh session would, in its final decision, address the need for further clarification of the term "sustainable tourism." Further, the Commission's outcome document should stress the need for international and national norms or voluntary codes of conduct, including the protection of natural and cultural heritages, as well as of the traditional lifestyle of indigenous people. More emphasis could also be given to recommendations to develop agri-tourism and ecotourism, particularly in developing countries and in those with economies in transition.

Louise Fréchette, UN Deputy-Secretary-General, said tourism was the only major sector in international trade and services in which developing countries had consistently had surpluses with the rest of the world. In the absence of proper planning and management, however, tourism development could lead to deforestation, soil erosion and the loss of biological diversity. It could also pose economic risks. Since many countries relied excessively on a single source of tourist, there were links between the performance of the tourism sector and the economic fortunes of the source country. Human rights issues were also involved in sex tourism, especially when children were involved.

Concerning the sectoral theme of seas and oceans, she said that oceans were at the heart of the climatic system, essential to trade and an important food source. It

was important that marine bioresources be better protected, which required tackling the sources of pollution more energetically.

Turning then to Small Island Developing States, she said that financial constraints had led many of them to de-emphasise sustainable development programmes and instead emphasise improving short-term economic performance. Small islands were experiencing more frequent and more devastating natural disasters. Owing to their small populations and narrow resource bases, those States had largely been bypassed in the globalisation of production, distribution and finance.

Navin Chandernal, Adviser to the President of Guyana on Science, Technology and Environment, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77/China, said the key to sustainable tourism was enhancing quality of life now, without risking that of generations to come.

Regarding oceans and seas, he wished to draw attention to the critical importance of marine resources as a source of food security, particularly for small island States. It should be suitably covered in the report of this session of the Commission. Particular attention should be given to chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and the commitments entered into there should be fulfilled.

Jürgen Trittin, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany, spoke on behalf of the European Union and associated countries, and Norway. He said that the Union regarded tourism and sustainable development as a vital issue. It firmly supported the initiative of the Commission to adopt an ambitious and well-defined international action programme on tourism that was directed at all the stakeholders and defined the measures needed for sustainable development in that sector. All future tourism development should be based on the criteria of sustainability, including the need to reduce poverty.

He said that governments must create an appropriate legal, economic, social and environmental framework and use a mix of instruments, such as integrated land use, coastal zone management and economic tax incentives. First and foremost, governments must take firm responsibility for combating sex tourism and child abuse by enacting and enforcing effective protection laws. The European Union had intensified efforts to combat sex tourism, in particular children's involvement. The tourism industry, for its part, should commit itself to the goal of sustainable tourism by working towards a global code of conduct.

The Minister said that the scientific basis for ocean and coastal zone management must be strengthened. Equally important was the issue of fisheries and the integration of economic, environmental and social issues into sustainable fisheries management.

Martin Barenstein, Minister for the Environment, Youth and Family Affairs of Austria, said that one problem facing the tourism sector was the lack of statistical data for the elaboration of indicators on sustainable tourism. The fact that many developing countries saw tourism strategically, as a source of income deserved greater

attention from the international community. His country was supporting a number of cooperation projects that assessed tourism and development in a sustainable manner.

Zamira Eshmambetova (Kyrgyzstan) said that, as a representative of a very mountainous country, she wanted to focus only upon the role of tourism in sustainable mountain development. Tourism presented remarkable opportunities in this respect by creating jobs, redistribution of income and poverty alleviation.

Dialogue

In this segment, on proposals for a draft decision, the representative of China said that international cooperation played an important role in the development of sustainable tourism.

The representative of Australia stressed the importance of defining terms and sharing best practices and policies in relation to sustainable tourism.

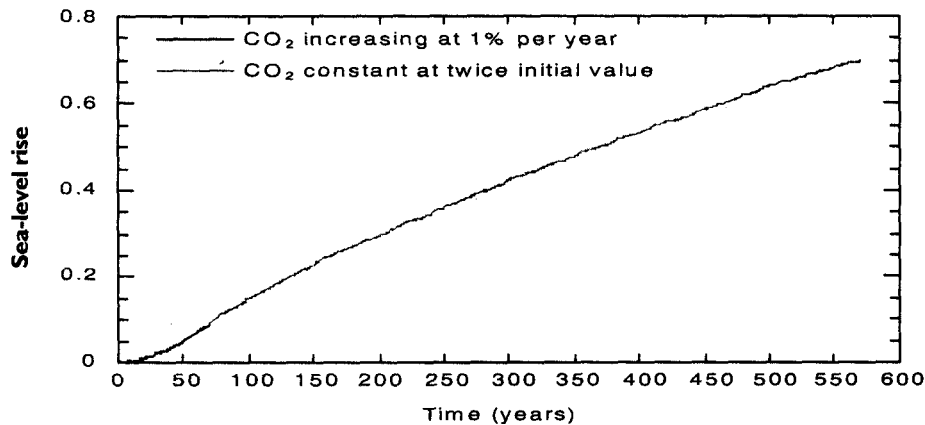
Mexico's representative said the Commission should conduct more such open dialogue formats on important sustainable development topics. There was a need for a global plan and a set of guidelines to provide guidance to countries on sustainable tourism policies. Such guidelines should include provisions for protection of the environment and reducing pressure on land use.

The representative of Spain suggested that the Commission's decisions stress the need for better training for tourism professionals.

The representative of Egypt said that the General Assembly had asked the Commission to develop an international programme of action to be implemented by the year 2002. How was that possible and who was going to do what? He asked. Unless the Ministers declared here and now that their delegations would seriously consider ways and means of implementation, and the measures by which to do so, by the year 2002, the document produced by the Commission would simply be "a piece of paper that is worth nothing."

Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said the international community should take into account the principles of sustainable tourism in development strategies. It also needed to finalise guidelines on that topic. Governments needed to develop a partnership with tour operators to implement sustainable tourism policies. There was also a need to be clearer on defining the terms and initiatives for sustainable tourism. It should be realised that tourism was currently a part of the problem, but that it could become a part of the solution to sustainable development problems.

In the debate focused on oceans and seas, *Hilda Kari*, the Minister of Forests, Environment and Conservation of the Solomon Islands, speaking also for the Group of South Pacific Countries (SOPAC), called on the Commission to urge the international community to address overfishing. In addition, expressing concern about increasing levels of marine pollution in the Pacific region, she said the Commission should call on UNEP to

Projected rise in sea level

The rise in sea level due to thermal expansion alone (which accounts for about half of the total rise over the next decades), following an increase in atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ of 1% per year for 70 years (thick line), and climate stabilization for a further 500 years (faint line).
 Source: R. Nicholls, Middlesex University in the U.K. Meteorological Office. 1997. *Climate Change and Its Impact: A Global Perspective*; Brittanica Crown Copyright.

Courtesy: *Protecting Our Planet – Securing Our Future*

implement the 1995 Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

Guro Fjellanger, Minister of Environment of Norway, said that irresponsible and unregulated fishing was a serious threat to oceans and seas and the international community must agree to combat such conduct. In that context, the use of flags of convenience was of particular concern. No nation should allow its flag to be used as a flag of convenience.

Fisheries and environmental management mechanisms needed to be better integrated, he added. The Commission should, therefore, call upon all regional fishing organisations, as well as regional environmental protection organisations, to cooperate in the development of such integration, based on an ecosystem approach. Following the Commission's session, there should be greater efforts to strengthen the United Nations ability to conduct a comprehensive and thorough debate on ocean issues, although the United Nations should avoid creating new institutions in that regard.

John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, said that globally, there was a need for systems to support national and regional arrangements. The Commission must put its weight behind action to produce such systems. He said that Belize and Honduras were becoming havens for industrial fishing fleets, some of which ignored international standards and conventions.

Svend Auken, Minister for Environment and Energy of Denmark, said that the state of oceans and seas was worse today than it was when the Commission began. Of particular concern was the Arctic environment, where the population had severe health problems due to pollutants and metals that were not even used in that region.

He noted that the United Nations and other bodies had created many rules for the protection of oceans and seas. There was little need for new regulations, except possibly in the areas of chemicals and fisheries. What was crucial was the implementation of the existing rules. The Commission should place increased attention on enforcement. The problem was not institutional – the lack of action was due to a lack of political will. Too often countries criticised deficiencies in institu-

tions, in order to hide the lack of political will.

Vishwanath Anand, Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forests of India, said that a comprehensive view of the subject would have to take into account the issues of land-based pollution, resulting from the rapid industrialisation along the coastline, municipal sewage and pesticides. In order to find a pragmatic solution to those concerns, it would be necessary to consider the socio-economic and environmental dimensions of the subject.

He said there should be no proliferation of fora over and above those already existing, which could be tasked with a more comprehensive consideration of the issues.

Peter Mokaba, Minister of Parliament and Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of South Africa, said that ministers could not hope to get endorsement for their policies unless those policies were integrated into the framework of sustainable development.

Dialogue

The Commission began by focusing on the theme of land-based pollution affecting marine environments.

The representative of Norway, said that what was needed was not more plans and agreements, but implementation of plans that had been agreed upon at the national, regional and international levels. She said there could be a UNEP conference to address such land-based pollutants as sewage disposal and the dumping of garbage. The environmental aspects of oil production needed to be dealt with at the international level. There was also a need for more international agreements controlling chemicals in oceans.

The representative of Egypt said that often plans of action alone were not implemented, but treaties did make

a difference. Why were there no efforts to create legally binding requirements on land-based ocean pollution?

The US representative said that there had been discussion of creating a legally binding agreement on ocean pollution in various international fora. At this point, however, the issue did not require an international treaty. One problem in controlling ocean pollution was that no single authority was in charge to protect oceans. Action in that area, therefore, required coordination between parties that were not used to working with each other. He added that many States had not yet taken action on the Global Programme of Action on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. The Commission should note and address that problem.

A representative of UNEP said that his organisation had taken a number of steps to implement the Global Programme of Action. It recently opened an office in The Hague for that purpose and it was working on a strategic action plan to promote the Programme.

The representative of Canada said the council of circumpolar countries had developed an action plan on land-based pollution activities. The problem was that such pollution came mainly from other countries, rendering the programme of action ineffective.

Egypt's representative said that a number of regional initiatives existed, but were not working. There was need to revitalize UNEP's Regional Seas Action Programme. Language in the Commission's decision should encourage further development of plans of action by regional entities.

The representative of Japan said he supported the Global Programme of Action but was concerned about the slow rate of progress.

An NGO representative supported the Commission's current emphasis on land-based sources of marine pollution, particularly against the context of increasing urbanisation in coastal areas. The Global Programme of Action should be accelerated. Also, the distinction between local and global should be softened, the representative said.

The Chairman asked how available Global Environmental Facility (GEF) funding was for advancing the Global Plan of Action.

A GEF representative said the operational strategy adopted by his organisation's council contained many programmes with which countries could address such issues as biodiversity and multi-country cooperation in international waters. Five projects were ongoing responding to the Global Programme of Action.

The Netherlands' representative said greater attention should be given to seabed pollution. A particular problem in that regard was the scrapping or destruction of ships.

Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, said that national policy for the marine environment was rarely organised in one place. There was little coordination at the national level and that was reflected at the international level. The Com-

mission could encourage governments to coordinate their national efforts in ocean and sea protection.

For the International Seabed Authority, a speaker said his organisation had been trying to inculcate in States the need for coordination at the national level, with varying success. At the international level, agencies and bodies had different mandates and constituencies. They often ignored the work of other entities. There should be a forum to enable agencies to highlight some of the problems in their areas of responsibility and to be a forum for discussion among States to help in achieving regional and national coordination.

The Chairman said that there was widespread agreement that any plan of action must involve local communities.

Other government ministers told the Commission the General Assembly should create an open-ended working group to discuss ocean-related issues. Such a working group could enhance the Assembly's annual debate on oceans and the law of the sea, said Ireland's Minister for Marine and Natural Resources. The framework for coordinated global action already existed in Agenda 21. What was needed now was institutional renewal, not new institutions.

Similarly, Colombia's representative said the creation of new bureaucratic mechanisms with financial implications should be avoided.

France's Minister of Territory and Environment said the working group should not be a new structure as such, but rather a forum for debate between States and other stakeholders. It would make recommendations to the General Assembly on coordination and follow-up of ocean issues.

Another topic of discussion was fishing subsidies. Iceland's representative said government subsidies were a primary cause of fishing over capacity. Abolition of government subsidies and other trade distortions would provide a win-win solution for trade and environmental concerns.

Agreeing, the US representative said the obstacles to sustainable fisheries posed by by-catch and destructive fishing practices, such as dynamiting, illegal and unregulated fishing and subsidies were priorities.

The representative of Japan said his country's views were different. In his country, subsidies played an important role in realising socio-economic goals and reduced excessive fishing capacity. The FAO should examine subsidies to identify which factors contributed to fishing beyond capacity.

Small Island Developing States

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (document E/CN.17/1999/6 and Add. 1-6), states that the General Assembly, at its nineteenth special session, in 1997, decided to convene a two-day special session immediately preceding its fifty-fourth session, in 1999, for a full and comprehensive review and appraisal of the

implementation of the Programme of Action. The Assembly also decided to request the Commission on Sustainable Development to carry out, at its seventh session, a full review of the Programme of Action in preparation for the special session.

The Commission was therefore acting as the preparatory body for the General Assembly's special session on 27–28 September 1999, where it will review implementation of the 1994 Barbados Plan of Action.

Speaking for the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Samoa's Minister of Lands, Survey and Environment and Tourism said that partnership had been the central message of the Barbados Conference. In the five years since then, however, official development assistance (ODA) had declined significantly. He called for the United Nations system to become more focused, for international partnerships to be strengthened, and links forged with civil society and the private sector.

Several speakers noted that globalisation and the erosion of trade preferences had undermined the ability of Small Island Developing States. This was a source of great concern, since the exports of Small Island States could not compete with those of large economies, the representative of Mauritius said. The global market was not a level playing field. Without differential treatment, the efforts of island States to attain a reasonable standard of living would suffer. He stressed the importance of developing a vulnerability index for such States, particularly by the international financial institutions, which were currently using only income measurements to determine eligibility for financing.

A speaker from the World Bank agreed that measuring aggregate income alone did not take into account the special circumstances of Small Island States. International financial institutions must exhibit greater flexibility and take into account aggregate income vulnerability; targeted vulnerability, such as that of specific groups within countries; and physical vulnerability, including weather and climate change.

Dialogue

This was intended to refine elements for the Commission's contribution to the Assembly's draft decision, which will be adopted at the special session.

Non-Domesticated Land as a Percentage of Total Regional Land Area, 1990–2050

Region	1990	2015	2050
Africa	70	55	45
Asia & Pacific	60	50	55
Europe & former USSR	75	75	70
Latin America & Caribbean	70	65	60
North America	80	80	80
West Asia	90	75	70
World	70	65	60

Source: RIVM/UNEP (1997).

Note: Totals are rounded to 5 per cent intervals.

Courtesy: UNEP

The representative of Antigua and Barbuda, who had been coordinating negotiations on the text, informed the Commission that a paragraph of the draft on, *inter alia*, accepting the right of Small Island Developing States to prohibit hazardous and radioactive wastes within their jurisdiction had been taken verbatim from the Barbados Programme of Action, yet its inclusion was being contested by some States.

The Commission Chairman said the Commission should at the very least recommend adhering to the original document. However, Germany's representative, for the European Union, said that five years had passed since the Barbados Programme of Action had been adopted and there had been significant developments, including a new treaty on nuclear waste. The Barbados document must now be given perspective in the new document.

The United States representative said there were legal implications to including the paragraph. While the language was the same, its placement was not. Australia's representative said that the paragraph concluded with the phrase "consistent with international law." If developing island States felt it would be to their advantage to have the issue restated, then it should be done.

Changing Consumption and Production Patterns in Developed and Developing Countries

The Commission had before it the Secretary-General's Report on the topic (document E/CN.17/1999/2), the proposed draft resolution (E/CN.17/1999/L.1); and a report of the Inter-Sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Consumption and Production Patterns and on Tourism (E/CN.17/1999/16, see also above).

Changing consumption and production patterns, and the ways such behaviour was influenced by culture, globalisation and urbanisation were among topics discussed by the Commission as it concluded its high-level segment.

Sweden's Minister for Environment said that global inequalities in consumption were grotesque. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the richest 20 per cent of the world were responsible for 86 per cent of consumption, while the poorest 20 per cent consumed only 1.3 per cent. Everyday decisions made a real difference, he stressed. In his country, an eco-labelling project had resulted in a 60 per cent reduction in household chemicals.

Green purchasing by consumers required the availability of green choices from the market, and proper information to educate consumers, the representative of the Republic of Korea said. All parties must be involved. Traditional and cultural values were often the best means of transmitting environmental awareness. Among the many effects of globalisation, developed countries transmitted their consumption patterns to developing countries, and that issue must be addressed.

Finland's representative, on behalf of the European Union, said that the world must better understand the driving forces which influence consumer choice and behaviour, including gender-related issues.

Following formal statements, the Commission held a dialogue to refine a draft resolution proposing revisions for the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection, and elements for a draft decision on changing consumption and production patterns.

James Gustave Speth, Administrator of UNDP, said that extraordinary developments had been made in technology. Countries must be willing to put economic incentives in place, to drive eco-friendly technology forward and make it available to developing countries.

A number of government representatives stressed the importance of technological transfer and the promotion of environmentally friendly technology.

A representative of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development said market forces could be used to generate incentives throughout the supply chain for sustainability. The key was not producing and consuming less, but producing and consuming differently, he stressed.

Speaking on the inclusion of sustainable consumption in the 1984 Consumer Protection Guidelines, a representative of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), said that such a move would dilute the clarity of the original document.

The representative of Consumers International said extending the Guidelines was a crucial step forward in sustainable development efforts. The new Guidelines would be effective as a tool for promoting effective action.

At the end of the meeting, the Commission's Chairman read a draft summary of the high-level segment's consideration of tourism, oceans, Small Island Developing States and consumption. He said the Commission's interactive dialogue had been essential in examining the draft texts proposed by its Inter-Sessional Ad Hoc Working Groups.

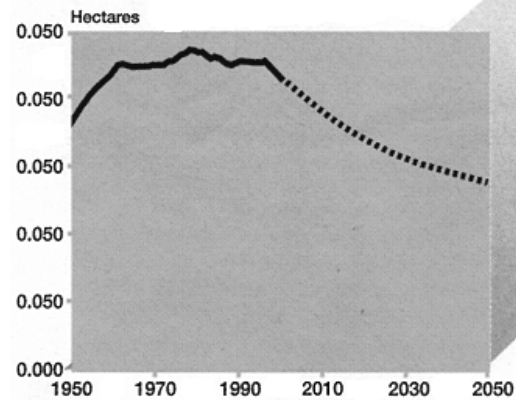
National Presentations

On the 26 April, the Commission heard presentations by three countries on efforts to foster and promote sustainable development: Poland, on the Baltic regional cooperation for sustainable development; Iceland, on Icelandic fisheries, science-based management and sustainable business; and Kenya, on tourism and sustainable development.

There was no need to frighten the general public with inflated warnings about depleted fish stocks, the Director General of Iceland's Marine Research Institute told the Commission. Such alarm could bring down the livelihood of nations that had for centuries lived through prudent ocean harvesting, such as his own. Iceland was the only European country whose economy was based on natural resource exploitation, he said. At the same time, there was a need to address unresolved fisheries management matters, including ocean pollution and the destructive use of subsidies.

Poland's Minister of the Environment, in a presentation on Baltic Sea region cooperation, said that despite the fact that the region was a highly industrialised area,

Global irrigated area per person, 1950-96, with projections to 2050



Courtesy: People & The Planet

characterised by widely differing economic and social preconditions, developmental cooperation had begun before the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Such cooperative initiatives included: the Helsinki Convention; Vision and Strategies Around the Baltic 2010; and Baltic 21. All provided cooperation for sustainable development between the 11 nations around the Baltic Sea.

The Minister of Tourism and Wildlife of Kenya, said that taking into consideration the changing patterns in tourism, Kenya was introducing new products, while preserving the authenticity of popular attractions. The new tourism policy was focused on low-volume, high-yield tourism. He added that his country's tourism policy focused on: improving the quality of people's lives; ensuring equitable distribution of benefits to local communities; promoting respect for customs; and initiating active partnership with stakeholders.

This was followed by a joint presentation by Panama and Mexico. The Executive Secretary of the National Council for Sustainable Development of Panama, said his country was undertaking a number of initiatives to ensure the smooth and imperceptible transfer of the Panama Canal when it came under Panama's sole control on 31 December 1999. In addition to improving the machinery and equipment of the Canal, Panama was committed to protecting aquatic life in and around the Canal basin.

Antonia Diaz de Leon, President of the National Institute of Fisheries of Mexico, said the country was sixteenth in the world in terms of volume of fishing catch, and was responsible for an average 1.5 per cent of the global catch. One fundamental element for applying national policies and programmes was the institutional structure and the legal framework under which sustainable development operated.

Resolutions and Decisions

Delegates spent the second week of the session in three drafting groups and numerous informal meetings in negotiating 13 decisions. ➤

Drafting Group I, chaired by *Navid Hanif* (Pakistan), considered tourism and consumption and production patterns.

Drafting Group II, chaired by *Sandor Mozes* (Hungary), was divided into two sub-groups. One considered oceans and seas and was chaired by *Alan Simcock* (UK). The other considered preparations for the special session on SIDS and was chaired by *John Ashe* (Antigua and Barbuda).

Drafting Group III, chaired by *George Talbot* (Guyana), considered preparations for CSD-9 on the issue of energy and other matters.

Following is a list of the texts adopted by CSD-7, some of which are printed in the Selected Documents section:

Draft ECOSOC resolutions and decisions

1. Expansion of the United Nations guidelines on consumer protection to include sustainable consumption (L.1)
2. Preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on issues related to the sectoral theme: energy (Text agreed in Drafting Group III)
3. Provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Commission (Text adopted in Plenary)

CSD decisions and resolutions

1. Oceans and seas (Text agreed in Drafting Group II, orally revised in Plenary) Annex: Co-Chairmen's summary of discussions in the Inter-sessional Working Group
2. Changing consumption and production patterns (Text agreed in Drafting Group I) Annex: Co-Chairmen's summary of discussion in the Inter-sessional Working Group
3. Tourism and sustainable development (L.6) Annex: Co-Chairmen's summary of discussions in the Inter-sessional Working Group (see page 150).
4. Education, Public Awareness and Training (Text agreed in Drafting Group III, see page 151)
5. Information provided by Governments and exchange of national experiences (Text agreed in Drafting Group III, see page 152)
6. Voluntary initiatives and agreements (Text agreed in Drafting Group III, see page 152)
7. Proposed programme of work in the area of sustainable development for the biennium 2000–2001 (L.3, Dec. I, orally revised in Plenary)
8. Preparations for the Review of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (Text agreed in Drafting Group III)
9. Matters related to the inter-sessional work of the Commission (L.3, Dec. II)

Chairman's summaries

1. Chairman's summary of the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Tourism (L.4/Add.2)
2. Chairman's summary of the High-Level Segment (L.4/Add.1)

Special Session on Small Island Developing States

In order to finish its work for the special session, the Commission recommended that the General Assembly

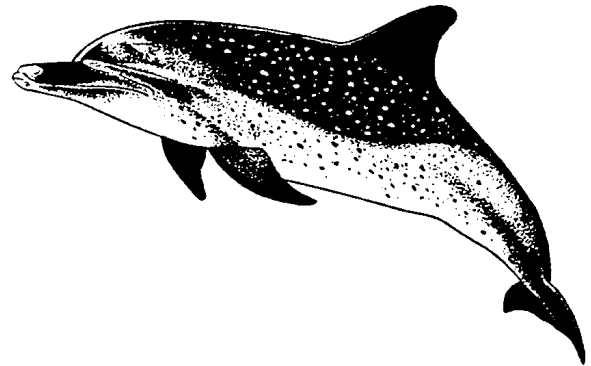
allow it to meet for two days in September 1999, in its capacity as preparatory committee.

The Commission made the recommendation on 30 April, after two texts on SIDS that were to be recommended for adoption by the special session were introduced by the coordinator, who stressed that a number of points had not yet been agreed upon.

Several speakers stressed the need for a resumed preparatory process to continue consultations. The United States initially did not support that proposal, but after receiving clarification on a number of matters it joined the consensus.

The Commission adopted the provisional agenda for the special session by acting on an orally amended conference room paper containing both it and information on organisational matters for the special session (E/CN.17/1999/PC/CRP.1*). Included among the organisational matters are decisions about the participation of speakers other than Member States.

In addition, it adopted a document on arrangements for the accreditation of NGOs at the special session, by which NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and those already accredited to the



Courtesy: NCIM

Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, would be invited to participate in the special session (E/CN.17/1999/PC/L.1).

Further, the Commission adopted the report of its work as the preparatory committee during the seventh session (E/CN.17/1999/PC/L.2).

Tourism and Sustainable Development

The Commission adopted an international work programme on sustainable tourism development (see page 150), urging Governments to act against illegal, abusive or exploitative tourism activity, including sexual exploitation and abuse. The text also calls on the tourism industry to work towards guiding principles and objectives for sustainable tourism and to take steps to reduce the volume of waste associated with tourist travel.

Changing Consumption and Production Patterns

The text (see page 150) recommends, *inter alia*, that the Economic and Social Council expand the United

Nations guidelines on consumer protection to include sustainable consumption. Also on consumption, it decides that the goal of changing consumer behaviour patterns should be pursued by all countries, with developed countries taking the lead, in full accordance with Agenda 21.

Oceans and Seas

In this text (see page 145), the Commission, among other things, calls on Governments to strengthen national, regional and international action for developing integrated approaches to oceans and coastal area management. It emphasises that the sustainable use of the oceans and seas is threatened by over-exploitation of marine living resources and by pollution; and cites the General Assembly as the appropriate body for the coordination required to ensure an integrated approach to all aspects of the oceans issue.

Preparations for the Commission's Ninth Session, Related to the Sectoral Theme of Energy

Friction over the energy discussion began to emerge at the current session, where a drafting group encountered disagreements over the scope and pace of the work of an ad hoc intersessional body that will begin preparations for the 2001 session next February, at UN Headquarters in New York.

According to UN officials, delegates from the G-77/China were opposed to language suggested by the European Union calling for the ad hoc body to engage in "substantive discussions" on energy and sustainable development. At the same time, environmental groups were pushing for early steps to ensure that next year's meeting of the ad hoc body – the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development – is productive.

The draft energy text recommended by the CSD for adoption by ECOSOC does not call for "substantive discussions" at the February 2000 ad hoc meeting, but delegates were satisfied that other language inviting the UN secretariat to "prepare analytic reports and other documentation, as appropriate," would meet the same goal.

Other Decisions

The Commission adopted the report of the seventh session and also the provisional agenda for its next session, which will consider integrated planning and management of land resources; financial resources/trade and investment/economic growth; agriculture and the report of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests.

Sustainable Development in Balkan Region

The Russian Federation had submitted the draft resolution (L.5). By that text, the Commission would, *inter alia*, call upon all parties to stop actions that aggravated the situation in the Balkans and expressed deep concern about the unfolding environmental crisis resulting from the destruction of chemical, oil and other industries in Yugoslavia.

The "no action" motion, proposed by Germany, on behalf of the European Union, was approved by a vote of 33 in favour, to 4 against (China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and Zimbabwe), with 8 abstentions (Benin, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Venezuela).

Calling for the motion, the representative of Germany said the text concerned matters of peace and security and the Commission should not set a precedent by entering into a substantive debate on such matters. The representative of the Russian Federation, however, said that, as the main body in the United Nations dealing with sustainable development, the Commission should play a role in addressing the unfolding environmental disaster in Yugoslavia, with its unpredictable consequences for the lives of millions in Europe.

Closing Remarks

In his closing remarks, Chairman Simon Upton stressed that the session had made a real contribution. Agreement had not been reached on all issues, but that lent an air of reality to the session's outcome, and gave more weight to those areas where agreement had been reached. He hoped the next session would be even more successful in advancing the goal of sustainable development.

In a press conference following the close of proceedings, the Chairman said the biggest change in the Commission was to have Ministers engaging in an informal dialogue on some of the big issues of the day. That dialogue had produced some very spirited and even outspoken debate on issues such as flags of convenience and fisheries.

Sinom Upton said that despite initial nervousness about the new approach, everybody had seemed to enjoy the experience. From that point of view, the meeting had been hugely successful and nobody had expressed a wish to return to the previous way of running the Commission. It was now possible for the next Chairman to use the present momentum to continue down a very different path.

He said that in his own view, there should not be any statements by Ministers, but that they should engage in an entirely free flow debate.

Turning to substantive matters, the Chairman said that the issue of oceans and seas was inevitably difficult because it was an enormous and ancient international agenda, involving layer upon layer of treaties, interventions, agreements and agencies.

Much of the disagreement arose from questions of whether the CSD was the proper forum for issues being negotiated elsewhere, he suggested.

He said that three of the issues on which the Commission had failed to reach agreement were 1) the question of subsidies as they relate to fisheries; 2) the provision of consumer information on fishing and 3) the transport and transit of hazardous waste. However, the failure to reach agreement could be seen positively, as it had resulted in a much more credible document because there had been no attempt to reach a "lowest common denominator" consensus. ➔

The most important thing the Commission had done in terms of the “big picture” was to state right up front that the two most pressing decisions facing the oceans were overfishing and land-based sources of pollution, he said. Those were the unequivocal priorities. Anyone who wanted to do anything about the oceans, whether on the national, regional or international level should not waste their time on other issues until they had fixed those ones.

Responding to a question, the Chairman said the most important achievement of the just-concluded session was one that appeared to be procedural on the face of it. If the big priorities before the Commission could be carried through and debated as necessary by the General Assembly with proper preparation, that was a major step forward which would give a much higher profile to ocean issues. It was a very significant breakthrough. (MJ) □

The other element discussed is measuring performance through the identification of 21 indicators, which evaluate progress against the goals in a more intensive way. The indicators can help to look at how progress is being made and simplify the process so it is a more harmonised approach, which does not tax developing countries. Those indicators had already provided concrete evidence of the connection between conflict and retarded development, and the importance of functional political systems for sustainable development. That, in turn, enforces the importance of having development cooperation which addresses the tough issue of peace-building, conflict resolution and reconciliation.

With regard to strengthening partnerships, the second of the four objectives of the Committee for 1999 and 2000, the Report notes that progress has been made in identifying key points for strengthening partnerships for fostering local ownership. That had come out of a dialogue between members of the donor community and developing countries.

The third area concerns mobilising and monitoring resources for development, a major challenge brought home in light of the Asian financial crisis. Economic turmoil in poor countries had shown its impact in the markets of rich countries.

In the area of resources, the Report contains detailed statistical data on resource flows. (The statistical reporting for the current report was for the period that ended on 31 December 1997. The statistics are always a year behind because it takes that long for all of the members to report them and for them to be organised.)

1997 had seen a reduction in total resource flows from OECD countries to developing countries, of about US\$40 billion – from \$325 billion. (At the same time, the \$325 billion was still the second largest total resource flow to developing countries in history.)

The Report states that the principal cause of the decline was the sharp reduction in bank lending, particularly to Asia, which had gone from \$86 billion to \$20 billion. An interesting phenomenon for 1997 was that private direct investment continued to grow substantially – from \$64 billion in 1996 to \$108 billion in 1998.

The Report, in looking at global trends and breaking them down by geographical region and income group, shows that the poorest countries are not sharing in the private flows and have remained substantially dependent on official flows and especially on official development assistance (ODA), which had declined in recent years.

In looking at expenditure for 1997, the Report shows that the major donors continued to decline. While development assistance since 1992 has dropped by about 20 per cent, the decline for the Group of 7 industrialised nations has been almost 30 per cent. Net flows of ODA in 1997 - \$48 billion – were down by 6 per cent in real terms from the previous years.

However, the Chair explained that some of that was due to the end of the eligibility of aid to Israel to count as ODA. The Committee reviews the list of developing

countries every three years and moves countries off that list as they move into the higher income brackets; and although that was the year that Israel had moved off the list, that was not the sole cause of the decline. Lower aid spending continued to be the case in a number of the larger donor countries. The non-Group of 7 countries accounted for about 15 per cent of the total gross national product (GNP) of the Committee-member countries, but they were providing about 28 per cent of ODA. Their burden was about twice their percentage of GNP; in effect, they were carrying more than their weight.

The Chair explained that, viewed as a percentage of GNP, ODA had fallen to a record low of 0.22 per cent of the total GNP of the Committee's members. Denmark, Norway, Netherlands and Sweden had remained the only four donors whose volume exceeded the 0.7 per cent target set many years ago by the United Nations. At the other end of the scale, the United States has now fallen below 0.1 per cent. The percentage of aid going to countries in greatest need has not changed much and had remained constant, when looking at where countries were in their distance from the agreed international goals.

The final point addressed in the Report concerns bringing together policies that effect development. It stresses that there is a strong need to look at development cooperation in context and that development cooperation – aid money – has to be part of a broader effort in which development is given more priority in the international agenda. It suggests that there is need for a broadly based effort by: a) development professionals to how they are responsible stewards of public resources and are accomplishing something with the public money entrusted to them; b) by civil society, to show it cares; c) by the media, to be able to convey a long-term perspective of what kind of world is being moved towards in the twenty-first century and what the opportunities are; d) by educators to be able to integrate values of development and solidarity into learning processes; and e) by senior government officials as accountable leaders who could project a vision of the public interest that is an inclusive one. All of this needs resources and political attention to put in place conditions necessary to attain those agreed long-term goals.

The Report also tries to take stock of changes and point the way ahead to development results through partnership. It addresses the issue of those countries where partnerships are difficult to conceive of because there are no shared values or interests. One of the conclusions reached is that where one has poor conditions for partnership, one needs to be cautious about large resource transfers. Investment in systems that are not functional and where governance is lacking, would probably not be good investments. The Report notes that there needs to be a strong emphasis on dialogue, effort to increase a sense of common purpose, readiness to engage non-governmental partners, and focus on things such as peace-building and poverty reduction. □