

20th Session Governing Council*

– Selected Decisions –

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1. Global Environment Outlook** The Governing Council,

Having considered the progress report of the Executive Director on the Global Environment Outlook process (UNEP/GC.20/3),

1. **Notes with appreciation** the broad participatory approach undertaken to prepare the second Global Environment Outlook;
2. **Urges** Governments and the Executive Director to take into account the findings and recommendations of the second Global Environment Outlook report in the development and implementation of their environmental assessment, management actions and programmes;
3. **Requests** the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session a Global Environment Outlook user profile and qualitative analysis of the actual use of the first and second Global Environment Outlook and the Global Environment Outlook process, together with a proposal for an optimal frequency and production schedule for future Global Environment Outlook and related reports;
4. **Requests** the Executive Director to produce, in close collaboration with Governments, United Nations agencies and bodies, and collaborating and associated centres and experts, a third Global Environment Outlook report in the form of a "30 Years After Stockholm" report, to be launched in 2002, following the full participatory Global Environment Outlook approach;
5. **Requests** the Executive Director to actively collaborate with the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the World

Resource Institute and other relevant institutions in the preparation of the next issue of the World Resources Report, to be launched in December 2000, which will focus on global ecosystems condition and trends and promoting the concept of a comprehensive science-based assessment of the world's ecosystems, and to simultaneously produce an expert report on policy responses to changes in the ecosystems dealt with in the World Resources Report 2000;

6. **Urges** major actors in data compilation and in global report production, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Statistical Office, United Nations regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and the World Resources Institute, to collaborate in the production and use of a common data and knowledge base, comprising indicators, models, scenarios and expert systems, in order to avoid duplication, save costs and ensure that global reports are mutually supportive. Each agency would thus approach sustainable development from its particular perspective, while taking advantage of the information in the other reports to get a complete picture of sustainable development.

2. Environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 14/11 of 18 June 1987, 15/8 of 25 May 1989, 16/13 of 31 May 1991, 17/31 of 21 May 1993, 18/11 of 26 May 1995 and 19/8 of 7 February 1997, on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories,

Having considered the progress report of the Executive Director on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (UNEP/GC.20/4),

1. **Welcomes** the activities which the United Nations Environment Programme is undertaking in association with the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab Territories;

2. **Requests** the Executive Director to continue participating in the activities of the multilateral working groups of the Middle East peace process, as well as the activities of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories, in order to ensure that environmental concerns are given due priority.

3. **Expresses its concern** regarding the continuing environmental degradation in the occupied Palestinian including those in the Palestinians authority and other Arab territories;

4. **Requests** the Executive Director to prepare a comprehensive report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, in keeping with the above-mentioned decisions of the Governing Council, and requests him to present the report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

EMERGING POLICY ISSUES

1. Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law beyond the year 2000*

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law beyond the year 2000 (UNEP/GC.20/5),

1. **Takes note with appreciation** of the progress made in the further implementation of the Programme for the Development and Peri-

* 1–5 February 1999, Nairobi. See also page 69. All of the decisions will be printed in International Protection of the Environment (Oceana Publications).

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odic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s; including the recently concluded study on dispute avoidance and dispute settlement in international environmental law (UNEP/GC.20/INF/16)

2. **Requests** the Executive Director to undertake a process for the preparation of a new Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, in consultation with Governments and relevant organizations, and, as part of this process, to convene a meeting of senior government officials expert in environmental law in the year 2000;

3. **Authorizes** the Executive Director to continue to use the current Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law as strategic guidance for the work of UNEP in the field of environmental law until a new Programme is adopted by the Council in its future session, and in that connection, authorizes him to assist, upon request, Governments and organizations in developing international environmental agreements;

4. Requests the Executive Director to continue to assist, upon request, developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening national environmental legislation and institutions;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to report on the outcome of the implementation of the present decision to the Council at its twenty-first session.

2. Promotion of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters*

The Governing Council,

Recalling principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as chapters 23–32 of Agenda 21,

Affirming its commitment to promoting access to information and participation of all concerned citizens at the relevant levels,

Taking note of the various activities at the national and regional levels to promote enhanced participation by the public and major groups, including the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters,

Recalling also programme area G (Environmental awareness, education, information and public participation) of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on promotion of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters (UNEP/GC.20/45),

1. **Requests** the Executive Director, in consultation with Governments and relevant international organizations, to seek appropriate ways of building capacity in and enhancing access to environmental information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters;

2. **Requests** the Executive Director to study, in this regard, various models of national legislation, policies and guidelines;

3. **Also requests** the Executive Director to submit a report on the outcome of the above-mentioned activities to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

3. Reform of INFOTERRA to ensure better public access to environmental information

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on reform of INFOTERRA to en-

sure better public access to environmental information (UNEP/GC.20/46).

1. **Takes note** of the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme/INFOTERRA Advisory Committee on the reform of the global environmental information exchange network (INFOTERRA), as contained in the Washington Statement of the Advisory Committee (UNEP/GC.20/INF/17) and summarized in the report of the Executive Director;

2. **Underscores** the importance of the public-right-to-know principle, which is inextricably linked with public participation in environmental decision-making;

3. **Notes** the new role of INFOTERRA as the United Nations Environment Programme's global advocate of the public-right-to-know principle to be carried out through a new structure governing the future operations of INFOTERRA;

4. **Further notes** the need to secure the participation of a diverse range of stakeholders drawn from Government, non-governmental organizations, academia, centres of excellence, professional bodies and business enterprises in a partnership arrangement aimed at providing an integrated environmental information service at the national level, and encourage Governments to establish these partnerships under a formal agreement with the United Nations Environment Programme;

5. **Recognizes** the important synergy between the revitalized INFOTERRA and a new assessment strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme for the purpose of facilitating the flow of information between the organization and its partners;

6. **Requests** the Executive Director to develop, in close cooperation with relevant partners, a concrete plan for establishing a re-structured INFOTERRA;

7. **Also requests** the Executive Director to consult with Governments on the appropriateness of launching in the year 2000 the United Nations Environment Programme's revitalized INFOTERRA at a global conference of senior government officials and representatives of relevant organizations expert in the field of environmental information services and seek extrabudgetary resources for it;

8. **Further requests** the Executive Director to report on the outcome of the implementation of the present decision to the Council at its twenty-first session.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in key areas of institution-building*

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in key areas of institution-building (UNEP/GC.20/6),

Underscoring that it is essential in institution-building aiming at sustainable development to enhance access to environmental information held by public authorities and participation by all relevant sectors of the society, including the public, in the environmental-decision-making process, in accordance with relevant legislation or arrangements, and urging Governments to do so,

Recognizing the importance of developing environmental laws and regulations as well as

judicial and administrative procedures for legal redress and remedy of actions negatively affecting the environment,

1. **Urges** Governments to develop, as appropriate, such environmental laws and regulations, as well as judicial and administrative procedures;

2. **Requests** the Executive Director to strengthen the secretariat to provide policy and advisory services, in particular technical, legal and policy advice, in key areas of institution-building to Governments and regional and sub-regional institutions dealing with environmental matters, with particular attention to the areas of concentration contained in paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, with a view to improving access by the public to information on environmental matters and environmental policy instruments;

3. **Also requests** the Executive Director to strengthen cooperation with Governments, other relevant organizations and entities, including the secretariats of international environmental conventions, in activities related to policy and advisory services in key areas of institution-building in order to ensure that such services are provided to Governments and relevant institutions in a coherent and coordinated manner in order to avoid duplication of efforts and economize on scarce resources.

2. Global Environment Facility

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on participation of Facility (UNEP/GC.20/6), as well as the suggested action plan on complementarity between the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme under the and Global Environment Facility and its programme of work (UNEP/GC.20/44)

1. **Welcomes** the progress made by the Executive Director in strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility, pursuant to Governing Council decision 19/12 of 7 February 1997 and the Nairobi, Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as its decisions SS.V/6 and SS.V/7 of 22 May 1998;

2. **Welcomes also** the progress made by the Executive Director in strengthening inter-agency collaboration under the Global Environment Facility as evidenced by the increased role played by the United Nations Environment Programme in joint Global Environment Facility projects with the United Nations Development Programme and/or the World Bank;

3. **Welcomes also** the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme on joint collaboration in the Global Environment Facility cross-cutting area of land degradation;

4. **Further**, welcomes the Executive Director's proposal aimed at establishing strategic partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, in addition to the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility, as well as the suggested action plan on complementarity between the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme under the Global Environment Facility and its programme of work;

5. **Invites** the Council of the Global Environment Facility, in considering the issue of additionality and complementarity of the core activities of the United Nations Environment Programme with its interventions within the Global Environment Facility, to fully take into account its environmental mandate as contained in the

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Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly;

6. **Invites** also the Council of the Global Environment Facility to support the efforts of the Executive Director aimed at strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Facility in accordance with its mandate as contained in the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility;
7. **Requests** the Executive Director to submit the suggested action plan on complementarity between the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme under the Global Environment Facility activities and its programme of work to the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its thirteenth meeting to be held in Washington D.C. from 5 to 7 May 1999;
8. **Requests also** the Executive Director to present to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session a report on the progress made in the implementation of present decision.

3. Further Improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on further improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies (UNEP/GC.20/9)

1. **Expresses its satisfaction** with the constructive collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in strengthening the ability of the United Nations to assist countries, particularly developing countries, affected by environmental emergencies;
2. **Requests** the Executive Director to further enhance such collaboration by strengthening the activities of the Joint Environment Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, taking into account the recommendations of the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies;
3. **Also requests** the Executive Director, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, to further focus and strengthen the contribution of its environmental expertise to the coordination of United Nations system-wide responses to natural disasters caused by natural phenomena or natural phenomena coupled with effects of human actions, with a view to providing United Nations coordinated assistance to countries, particularly developing countries, affected by such natural disasters;
4. **Invites** Governments and relevant United Nations agencies, bodies and programmes to continue to cooperate with the Joint Environment Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in its efforts to provide assistance to countries, in particular developing countries, facing environmental emergencies, including natural disasters;
5. **Further requests** the Executive Director to develop appropriate linkages between the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on environmental emergencies and its overall work on environmental assessment and early warning;
6. **Urges** Governments and international organizations in a position to do so to contribute to the Trust Fund for Environmental Emergencies;
7. **Also requests** the Executive Director to report to Governments on the progress made in the activities of the Joint Environment Unit.



Shafqat Kakakhel, UNEP Deputy Executive Director.

4. The role of women in environment and development

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995, relating to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action at the national and international levels,

Recalling also its decisions 17/4 of 21 May 1993, 18/6 of 26 May 1995 and 19/7 of 7 February 1997 on the United Nations Environment Programme and the role of women in environment and development,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the role of women in environment and development (UNEP/GC.20/10).

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the role of women in environment and development and the progress towards the fulfilment of the commitments made by the United Nations Environment Programme to meet the global priorities for the advancement of women, and the decision of the Executive Director to re-focus the institutional arrangements for gender within the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme by hiring a staff member at the professional level to undertake the actions related to the role of women in environment and development;
2. Requests the Executive Director to continue efforts to fulfil the ten commitments made by the United Nations Environment Programme at the Fourth World Conference on Women as its contribution to meet the global priorities for the advancement of women by the year 2000, and to carry out more activities in the programme of work targeted at women;
3. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen efforts to assist Governments to empower women to participate in the decision-making process on environmental matters and to provide them with information on the environment.
4. Requests also the Executive Director to extend the network of gender focal points to cover all Governments, in particular those of the developing countries and countries with economies in transition and also relevant global non-governmental organizations.
5. Land degradation: support for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to

Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

5. Inter-agency environment coordination group and system-wide strategy in the field of the environment*

The Governing Council,

Noting the report of the Executive Director on developments related to the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group and the system-wide strategy in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.20/7),

Further noting that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has proposed to establish an Environmental Management Group, after consulting with the members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination,

Invites the Executive Director, in light of the forthcoming decision of the Secretary-General on the establishment of an Environment Management Group, to consider the need for an inter-agency coordination group and system-wide strategy in the field of environment and to report thereon to the GC at its 21 Session.

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PREPARATIONS FOR THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.V/3 of 22 May 1998 on the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session;

Recalling further its decision 18/7 of 26 May 1995 on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 in which the United Nations General

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Assembly called on UNEP to continue providing support to the Commission on Sustainable Development, inter alia, in the form of scientific, technical and policy information and analysis of and advice on global environmental issues;

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on the activities of UNEP in connection with the themes on the agenda of seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (UNEP/GC.20/19 and Add. 1 and 2 and UNEP/GC.20/42);

1. **Requests** the Executive Director to take steps to ensure that in the future the Governing Council has the information required to prepare the views of the United Nations Environment Programme for all sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development scheduled before its own next session;

2. **Requests** the Executive Director to submit to the Commission on Sustainable Development seventh session, through the Commission's ad hoc inter-sessional working groups, the following decisions and recommendations of the GC together with the report of the Executive Director.

A. Oceans and seas

The Governing Council,

1. **Stresses** the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to strengthen the regional seas programme as its central mechanism for implementation of its activities, relevant to chapter 17 of Agenda 21, with a focus on the promotion of policy relevant activities and implementation in cooperation with Governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector. In this context, invites the Executive Director to identify specific activities for the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in the following areas, taking into account the ongoing work of other international organizations:

(a) To ensure that environmental considerations are fully taken into account in the activities aimed at promoting integrated management and Sustainable development of coastal areas and associated river basins and their living aquatic resources;

(b) To promote the formulation, adoption and implementation of appropriate technical, institutional, administrative and legal measures contributing to improved protection of marine and coastal environment, including the rational use and conservation of their resources. This work should include the application of the guidelines set forth in the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities for the environmentally sustainable management and use of coastal and marine resources, including their associated drainage basins as basic water management units;

(c) To facilitate the assessment of the state of marine and coastal environment, including the trends of changes in this environment and identification of important emerging issues;

(d) To promote measures for improved protection of endangered aquatic species, fragile ecosystems, habitats and other ecologically sensitive areas, and for restoration of damaged systems and areas, as well as to pursue the establishment of new and the expansion of existing specially protected areas;

(e) To enhance UNEP's collaboration with FAO and other organizations in the environmental aspects of sustainable fisheries and to foster closer collaboration with mechanisms and organizations in particular FAO, dealing with fisheries, including aquaculture;

(f) To strengthen and expand its research, monitoring, observation and assessment activities, particularly in addressing critical uncertain-

ties related to climate change as it may affect sustainable management of the marine environment;

(g) To prepare and convene, possibly in 2000, a joint high-level meeting of the representatives of the governing bodies of the regional components of the programme to review overall progress and to determine ways and means of enhancing its contribution to the global protection of marine and coastal environment through regional and inter-regional cooperation;

(h) To explore the need and possibility for expansion of the regional seas programme to geographical areas not currently covered;

(i) To enhance linkages and coordination with the secretariats of regional agreements and organizations not under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. **Endorses** the enhanced cooperation of UNEP with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and other international organizations in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative and decides to give priority to an assessment of the experiences to -date in implementation of International Coral Reef Initiative programme during its twenty-first session;

3. **Encourages** the member agencies of the joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) to review their terms of reference, composition and methods of work, as a means of enhancing its status as a source of independent, scientific advice on coastal and oceans issues.

4. **Stresses the need** for reliable, accessible and relevant monitoring, and welcomes the Global International Water Assessment (GIWA) which will provide for the assessment of the world large marine ecosystems;

5. **Calls on** the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session to promote significantly enhanced coordination and improved institutional arrangements within the United Nations system on activities concerning the marine environment, especially through the work of the Oceans and Coastal Areas Subcommittee of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and make the work of the Subcommittee transparent to Government;

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

The Governing Council,

Having considered the status report of the Executive Director on implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GC.20/32),

Recalling General Assembly resolution 51/189 of 16 December 1996, particularly, the recommendation that Governments intensify their efforts, within the context of their representation in governing bodies of other agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, to ensure these agencies and organizations have the mandate and the needed financial and human resources to undertake their responsibilities as lead agencies to coordinate the development of the clearing-house mechanism of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities for specific pollutant source categories, as defined in resolution 51/189,

1. **Stresses** the need for urgent measures aimed at expediting progress in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and, in this context,

(a) **Urges** the Executive Director to expeditiously complete the establishment of the Hague Coordination Office;

(b) **Calls upon** Governments to intensify their efforts within the context of their representation in the governing bodies of other agencies and organizations within the United Nations system to ensure these agencies and organizations have the mandate and the needed financial and human resources to undertake their responsibilities as lead agencies to coordinate the development of the clearing-house mechanism of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, as defined in the United Nations General Assembly resolution 51/189;

(c) **Recommends** that the Commission on Sustainable Development should consider how to promote the early implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities as one of the components of implementing chapter 17 of Agenda 21 and to address recommendations to the appropriate United Nations agencies, bodies and programmes;

(d) **Requests** the Executive Director, in cooperation with Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations, to explore the feasibility for the United Nations Environment Programme to convene, by-the-year 2000, a global conference to address sewage as a major land-based source of pollution affecting human and ecosystem health;

(e) Taking into account other ongoing process, decides to undertake the first intergovernmental review of the status of implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in the year 2001, and invites the Executive Director to organize, by the end of 1999, an expert group meeting, with participation of Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, in order to facilitate the preparations for such a review;

(f) **Recommends** creation of technical working groups in regional seas programmes to facilitate the exchange of information on successful approaches;

(g) **Calls on** the Executive Director to improve the effective functioning of the Steering Committee of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

(h) **Recommends** national and regional partnership meetings, based on well-developed national and/or regional programmes of action for the purpose of creating partnerships in implementing with donor organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, local government and all other stakeholders;

2. **Further endorses** decision 19/14 A to revitalize the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, strengthen the regional seas programme and coastal zone management approach, as called for in the Global Programme of Action/ for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

C. Sustainable tourism

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the importance of tourism as a lever for economic development, especially in developing countries,

1. **Notes with appreciation** the initiatives taken thus far by the Executive Director in developing the work programme on sustainable tourism, in cooperation with relevant industry associa-

tions and other international organizations, in particular the World Tourism Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Further development of the work programme should be guided by the relevant decisions of the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

2. Requests the Executive Director to further develop, through a consultative process involving Governments and other relevant partners, guiding principles for sustainable tourism in accordance with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and taking into account the draft principles on sustainable tourism contained in the annex to the report of the Executive Director, and urge those partners to support this process;

3. Requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with relevant partners including the private sector, to continue the preparations of voluntary initiatives and codes of conduct for the tourism sector;

4. Invites the Commission on Sustainable Development to call on governments to integrate consideration of sustainable tourism in their national sustainable development strategies, and into relevant multilateral environmental conventions.

D. Small Island Developing States

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the special problems and requirements of small island developing States;

Supporting the goals of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development/ of Small Island Developing States;

Welcoming the reports of the regional intergovernmental meetings small islands developing States held in 1998, and inviting the Commission on Sustainable Development to give consideration to the outcomes of the meetings;

1. Invites the Executive Director to:

(a) Promote and facilitate integrated island management programmes, including economic and legal instruments, administrative structures and management procedures, for the improved protection and use of the resources of small island developing states, encompassing the totality of the terrestrial environment, coastline and adjacent exclusive economic zones;

(b) Strengthen and expand research, monitoring and assessment activities addressed to small island developing states, including the social and economic factors affecting their terrestrial and aquatic environment, as well as relevant information for development of a "vulnerability index" for small island developing States, including the potential impacts of climate change;

(c) Promote the transfer of, and facilitate access to, scientific information and advice on technologies, including "soft" environmental management technologies such as policies, practices, management systems, regulatory frameworks and economic instruments appropriate for the needs of small island developing States;

(d) Prepare guidelines and programmes for waste minimization, reduction, treatment and disposal applicable under the constraints of small island developing States;

(e) Promote development and application of principles for sustainable tourism;

(f) Promote research and assessment regarding the sustainable management and use of the terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity of small island developing States;

(g) Promote public awareness and education activities, including the use of local non-governmental organizations, regarding the need for the

sustainable development and use of the natural resources of small island developing States.

2. **Urges** the Executive Director to complete work on state-of-the-environment assessments in time for the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the review of the Barbados Programme of Action.

E. Changing production and consumption patterns

The Governing Council,

1. **Notes with appreciation** the activities so far undertaken by the secretariat at the request of Governing Council to promote the use of cleaner and safer production approaches;

2. **Further notes with appreciation** the current work aimed at integrating environmental criteria into economic and financial decision-making, especially as it concerns adoption of cleaner technologies, and to further elaborates mechanisms and procedures for financing cleaner production investments;

3. **Encourages** Governments, industries and institutions to continue to make efforts to promote and implement preventative strategies such as Cleaner Production, Green Productivity, and Pollution Prevention as preferred options to address environmental problems, and invites those that have not already done so to sign the International Declaration on Cleaner Production presented at the Fifth High-level meeting on Cleaner Production in the Republic of Korea on 29 September 1998, and to take steps to implement the Declaration fully;

4. **Welcomes** the UNDP Human Development Report 1998 as an important contribution to the work on sustainable production and consumption;

5. Encourage the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development to develop a UNEP Youth Advisory Council Consumption Strategy for Youth.

(a) To assess the role of youth in the promotion of sustainable consumption;

(b) By engaging the UNEP Youth Advisory Council in a global process of youth consultation on these topics;

(c) To identify means to support initiatives for the promotion of youth sustainable consumption.

6. **Further encourages** the Executive Director to develop and undertake activities in promoting more sustainable production and consumption patterns in industry and in the wider community in particular to assist developing countries. For this purpose, due consideration should be given, inter alia, to international cooperation in environmentally sound technologies, financial transfers and the use of voluntary initiatives and market-based incentives;

7. **Stresses** that UNEP has an important role to play in ensuring that the over-riding issue of sustainable production and consumption patterns is duly taken into account within the different themes under the work programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

8. **Requests** the Executive Director to further elaborate draft guidelines for the assessment and evaluation of environmentally sound technologies, including guidelines for exporters of potentially hazardous or outdated technologies, and submit these to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session for consideration.

9. **Welcomes** the activities undertaken by UNEP in relation to the marketing and advertising sector in addressing sustainable consumption.

Revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme*

The Governing Council,

Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the revision of the Financial Rules and the General Procedures Governing the Operation of the Environment Fund (UNEP/GC.20/27).

1. Functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization

The Governing Council,

1. **Welcomes** the report of the Executive Director on the functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization (UNEP/GC.20/28);

2. **Takes note** of the changes made by the Executive Director in the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme UNEP and its regional offices in order to strengthen regionalization and ensure that regional priorities are reflected in the core programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and that of the Programme's global programme is reflected in the activities of the regional environmental forums and organizations;

3. **Requests** the Executive Director to continue to strengthen regionalization and decentralization, while maintaining the central coordinating role of the Programme's headquarters in Nairobi.

2. Functioning of specialized offices of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

1. **Notes with appreciation** the report of the Executive Director on the functioning of specialized offices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.20/29);

2. **Endorses** the steps taken by the Executive Director to bring greater efficiency through synergies between the main units in the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme addressing technology transfer, environmental issues related to industrial and urban activities (and, in particular, production and use of chemicals), as well as of energy, and the related key economic and trade aspects;

3. **Requests** the Executive Director to give priority to the promotion of cleaner production and transfer of environmentally sound technologies through these offices.

3. Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

The Governing Council,

Having considered the status report of the Executive Director on implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GC.20/32),

Recalling General Assembly resolution 51/189 of 16 December 1996, particularly, the recommendation that Governments intensify their efforts, within the context of their representation in governing bodies of other agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, to ensure these agencies and organizations have the mandate and the needed financial and human resources to undertake their responsibilities as lead agencies to coordinate the development of the clearing-house mechanism of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities for specific pollutant source categories, as defined in resolution 51/189, ➤

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1. **Stresses** the need for urgent measures aimed at expediting progress in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and, in this context,

(a) **Urges** the Executive Director to expeditiously complete the establishment of the Hague Coordination Office;

(b) **Calls upon** Governments to intensify their efforts within the context of their representation in the governing bodies of other agencies and organizations within the United Nations system to ensure these agencies and organizations have the mandate and the needed financial and human resources to undertake their responsibilities as lead agencies to coordinate the development of the clearing-house mechanism of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, as defined in the United Nations General Assembly resolution 51/189;

(c) **Requests** the Executive Director, in cooperation with Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations, to explore the feasibility for the United Nations Environment Programme to convene, by the year 2000, a global conference to address sewage as a major land-based source of pollution affecting human and ecosystem health;

(d) Taking into account other ongoing process, **decides** to undertake the first intergovernmental review of the status of implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in the year 2001, and invites the Executive Director to organize, by the end of 1999, an expert group meeting, with participation of Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, in order to facilitate the preparations for such a review;

(e) **Recommends** creation of technical working groups in regional seas programmes to facilitate the exchange of information on successful approaches;

(f) **Calls on** the Executive Director to improve the Steering Committee of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

(g) **Recommends** national and regional partnership meetings, based on well-developed national and/or regional plans of action for the purpose of creating partnerships in implementing with donor organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, local government and all other stakeholders;

2. **Further endorses** decision 19/14 A to revitalize the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, strengthen the regional seas programme and coastal zone management approach, as called for in the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

4. Establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific

The Governing Council,

Having considered the status report of the Executive Director on the establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific (UNEP/GC.20/35),

1. **Endorses** the actions taken thus far in facilitating establishment of a proposed regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific region, and **takes note** of the wide support by the concerned Governments for the draft Action Plan and corresponding legal instrument;

2. **Invites** the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama to endorse the proposed Meeting of High-Level Government-Designated

Experts to Review the Proposals for a Convention and Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the East Central Pacific region.

5. Coral reefs

The Governing Council:

Recalling Governing Council decision 19/15, which urges United Nations Environment Programme to continue to play an active and leading role in the development, implementation and coordination of regional activities under the International Coral Reef Initiative,

1. **Endorses** UNEP's proposed collaborative activities with agencies and organizations both inside and outside the United Nations system, for protection and conservation of coral reef ecosystems;

2. **Requests** the Executive Director to carry out an assessment of UNEP experience to date in the implementation of the International Coral Reef Initiative programme and consider how the role of the United Nations Environment Programme can be strengthened in conjunction with the International Coral Reef Initiative Secretariat, for discussion by the Council at its twenty-first session;

3. **Endorses** enhanced cooperation within the United Nations system, particularly with the Intergovernmental-Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization; the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and with multilateral development banks such as the World Bank;

4. **Requests** the Executive Director to circulate the renewed call to action statement of the International Tropical-Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium, held in November 1998, to the Governing Council for its consideration at its twenty-first session;

5. **Requests** the Executive Director, in conjunction with the International Coral Reef Initiative Secretariat and the International Coral Reef Initiative Coordination and Planning Committee, to continue to seek funding for the implementation of the International Coral Reef Initiative's activities and programmes;

6. **Welcomes** the progress in establishing the global coral reef monitoring network and, in light of the 1997-1998 widespread coral bleaching, endorses enhanced cooperation between the global coral reef monitoring network's co-sponsors, the United Nations Environment Programme, World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Bank, to implement the global coral reef monitoring network to support conservation and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems;

7. **Recognizes** the strong role of the regional seas programmes as implementing and coordinating mechanisms for the International Coral Reef Initiative action on the regional scale and endorses continued and strengthened action by the regional seas programmes in the area of conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs.

6. Outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (UNEP/GC.20/39 and Corr. 1)

Recalling chapter 19 of Agenda 21 and its decisions 18/12 of 26 May 1995, 19/13 A of 7 February 1997 and SS.V/5 of 22 May 1998,

1. **Welcomes** the adoption of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;

2. **Calls upon** States and regional economic integration organizations entitled to do so to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Convention with a view to bringing it into force as soon as possible;

3. **Recommends** that the General Assembly endorses the institutional linkage between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, as called for by the Convention and authorized by the Governing Council in its decision SS.V/5 of 22 May 1998, through which the Executive Director provides secretariat services jointly with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

4. **Authorizes** the Executive Director, together with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to convene such further sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, until the date of the opening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, as are necessary to oversee the operation of the interim PIC procedure 1/ and to prepare for and service the Conference of the Parties until the end of the fiscal year in which the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties takes place;

5. **Calls upon** States and regional economic integration organizations to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the United Nations Environment Programme in order to support the interim arrangements and the operation of the Conference of the Parties until the end of the fiscal year in which the first meeting of the Conference of Parties takes place, and to ensure the full and effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the further work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

6. **Calls upon also** States and regional economic integration organizations with more advanced programmes for regulating chemicals to provide technical assistance, including training, to others in developing their infrastructure and capacities to manage chemicals throughout their life-cycle, particularly in view of the urgent need for their participation in the effective operation of the Convention once it enters into force;

7. **Requests** the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on the progress in the work of the secretariat arising from the outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade as well as the present decision.

8. **Also requests** the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

1/ The voluntary prior informed consent procedure as amended in accordance with the resolution on interim arrangements adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and decision SS.V/5 of the Governing Council.

7. Functioning of the Ombudsman Unit The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 18/42 of 25 May 1995, in which it approved the creation, upon a proposal of the Executive Director, the Ombudsman Unit, after two years of pilot experience from September 1993 onwards with that Unit,

Considering the importance for the United Nations Environment Programme of the tasks assigned to the Ombudsman Unit in the fields of mediation, enquiry, counselling, the provision of information, briefing and management review,

Taking into account the success encountered since its inception by the Ombudsman Unit, which proves it meets essential demands from personnel of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Underlining the honors received by the Ombudsman Unit when attributed the United Nations "UN21" award in July 1997 for "saving the Organization, the time, costs and disruption involved, in lengthily recourse procedures and appeals, and enhanced staff welfare",

Drawing attention in this respect to the Office of Internal Oversight Services' observation, contained in document A/ 51/ 810 of 27 February 1997, stating that the Ombudsman Unit appears to respond to a genuine need,

Stressing the positive comments received in this respect by the Office of Internal Oversight Services upon the submission of the annual report of the Ombudsman Unit over 1995,

Noting with concern that paragraph 10 of Governing Council decision 18/42, by which the Council requested the Executive Director to report annually to the members of the Governing Council on the activities of the Ombudsman, including any comments of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on those activities, has not been fully adhered to,

Noting with equal concern that due to the non-submission for consideration by the Governing Council of the annual reports during 1995 and 1996, no execution has been given to paragraph 11 of decision 18/42 by which the Council, *inter alia*, decided to review the creation of the Ombudsman Unit at its nineteenth session,

Also noting that under those circumstances, and without involvement of the Governing Council, the Ombudsman Unit has not been provided with necessary personnel and financial means for enabling it to effectively perform its responsibility,

Welcoming however the submission, in September 1998, by the UNEP secretariat of the report on the activities of the Ombudsman in 1997 to the Committee of Permanent Representatives,

Considering the fact that other United Nations entities in Nairobi and their personnel would greatly benefit from the full range of services provided by the Ombudsman,

1. **Fully endorses** the increase in financial and personnel allocations to the Ombudsman Unit in the 2000-2001 biennial budget as proposed by the Executive Director;

2. **Invites** the Executive Director to submit to the members of the Governing Council all annual reports on the Ombudsman Unit still pending;

3. **Invites further** the Executive Director to extend the services of the Ombudsman Unit to other United Nations entities if so requested by them;

4. **Requests** the Executive Director to prepare, for consideration by the first meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives after the twentieth session of the Governing Council, an evaluation report on the functioning of the Ombudsman Unit containing an analysis of and recommendations on its status, range of action,

terms of reference and necessary financial and material means as well as personnel, giving particular attention to the issue of autonomy of the Ombudsman Unit;

5. **Decides** to review, at its twenty-first session, the operations of the Ombudsman Unit;

6. **Requests** the Executive Director to submit to it all relevant information and reports regarding the Ombudsman Unit at its twenty-first session.

PROGRAMME, THE ENVIRONMENT FUND AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER BUDGETARY MATTERS

1. Report on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services* The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (UNEP/GC.20/20),

Takes note of the current status and ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

2. Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Environment Fund budgets: revised proposals for 1998-1999 and proposals for 2000-2001 The Governing Council,

Notes with appreciation the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme, the revised requirements for 1998-1999 and the proposed requirements for 2000-2001 (UNEP/GC.20/21), and the comments of the Executive Director on the observations and recommendations in the report of the Advisory Committee (UNEP/GC.20/47) and requests the Executive Director to address all recommendations and to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

3. Proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements¹ for the biennium 2000-2001 The Governing Council,

I. Resources of the Environment Fund

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the proposed programme budget, revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000-2001 (UNEP/GC.20/22), the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative Budgetary Questions (UNEP/GC.20/21) and the comments of the Executive Director on the observations and recommendations in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative Budgetary Questions (UNEP/GC.20/47),

1. **Notes with appreciation** the efforts made to improve transparency in the budget preparation and requests the Executive Director to further harmonize the budget presentation with other United Nations bodies, especially United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, United Nations Chil-

dren's Fund and United Nations Drug Control Programme;

2. **Notes with great concern** the deterioration of the environment at the global level despite some achievements in various areas and strongly stresses the need for urgent and immediate action;

3. **Expresses its appreciation** to those Governments that have contributed or have pledged to contribute to the Environment Fund at a higher level in the biennium 1998-1999 and appeals to all Governments to contribute to the Environment Fund or to increase their support to the United Nations Environment Programme, either in cash or in kind, in order for it to implement fully its programme;

4. **Notes with concern** that the level of contributions to the Environment Fund, received and pledged for the biennium 1998-1999, as at 30 November 1998, falls short of the Governing Council's estimates by a significant margin. This means that the programme of work approved by the Governing Council for the biennium 1998-1999 at the level of \$75 million can be only implemented if Governments come forward with the additional funding needed to adequately implement it;

5. **Reconfirms** that, in conformity with Agenda 21 and in order to be able to exercise the functions assigned to it, the United Nations Environment Programme requires additional human and financial resources;

6. **Recognizes** the need to broaden the base of contributions to include all members of the United Nations especially countries which have developed a greater capacity to pay;

7. **Urges** all Governments to make efforts to pay their contributions prior to the year to which the contributions relate or, at the latest, at the beginning of the year to which they relate, in order to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to plan and execute the Fund programme more effectively;

8. **Urges** all Governments, where possible, to make pledges of their future contributions to the Environment Fund at least one year in advance of the year to which they relate and, if possible, two years in advance;

9. **Approves** the revised appropriations of Fund resources in 1998-1999 of 25.83 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget and reconfirms the appropriation of 75 million dollars for Fund programme activities and 5 million dollars for the Fund programme reserve;

10. **Approves** an appropriation of Fund resources in 2000-2001 of 14.23 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget, 100 million dollars for Fund programme activities and 5 million dollars for the Fund programme reserve, recognizing that this will require substantial additional funding, as available, compared to the authorized appropriation for the biennium 1998-1999;

11. **Authorizes** the Executive Director, based on the approval of the Fund-programme appropriation by the Governing Council, to approve costed workplans for direct implementation of specific subprogrammes and activities;

12. **Authorizes** the Executive Director to prepare for the biennium 2002-2003 a programme of work consisting of Fund programme activities of 120 million dollars and **requests** the Executive Director to include in each separate draft decision to be presented in relation to the 2002-2003 programme of work, a cost estimate for the activities proposed;

13. **Authorizes** the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million dollars for Fund programme activities in the biennium 2002-2003;

* L.5/Add.1/Rev.1

14. **Notes the steps** taken by the Executive Director to increase the financial reserve to its present level of 10 million dollars and urges the Executive Director to further increase the level of the financial reserve to 20 million dollars as and when carry-over resources become available over and above those needed to implement the programme approved for the bienniums 1998-1999 and 2000-2001;

15. **Approves** that the outstanding pledges in the period 1992-1995 as listed in GC.20/22 para 61 not be regarded as assets for accounting purposes.

II. Management and administrative support costs budget

Recalling paragraph 9 of its decision 19/22, part II, of 7 February 1997 by which the Governing Council approved an appropriation of 27.5 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1998-1999 and paragraph 7 of its decision SS.V/1, part I, of 22 May 1998 by which it confirmed the 1998-1999 management and administrative support costs budget appropriation of 27.5 million dollars, subject to the continued feasibility of the approved 1998-1999 programme of 75 million dollars,

Further recalling paragraphs 8 and 9 of its decision SS.VI, part I, by which the Governing Council urged the Executive Director to manage the 1998-1999 management and administrative support costs budget appropriation with the utmost economy and to achieve greater efficiencies in those offices funded from the management and administrative support costs budget and also requested the Executive Director further to reduce 1998-1999 management and administrative support cost expenditures, bearing in mind Governing Council decision 18/42 of 25 May 1995, should contributions to the Environment Fund fall short of the level required to implement the approved 1998-1999 programme of 75 million dollars,

Recalling paragraph 4 of its decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, by which it welcomed the intention of the Executive Director to realize the "environmental dividend" from the streamlining and rationalization of the administrative arrangements for the United Nations Environment Programme, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation and gender balance, as well as the interests of developing countries,

1. **Notes with appreciation** that the anticipated 1998 management and administrative support costs expenditures, subject to the final closure of 1998 accounts, have been at the level of 11.65 million dollars and that the efficiency measures implemented by the Executive Director resulted in savings of administrative expenditures of approximately 1.65 million dollars;

2. **Approves** a revised appropriation of 25.83 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1998-1999, with the revised distribution by programme and object of expenditure proposed by the Executive Director;

3. **Approves** the proposed changes in the approved staffing tables for the bienniums 1998-1999 and 2000-2001 as set out in the Executive Director's report;

4. **Approves** the revised format and structure of the management and administrative support costs budget as set out in the proposed budget for 2000-2001;

5. **Approves** an appropriation of 14.23 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 2000-2001 with the distribution by programme and object of expenditure proposed by the Executive Director;

6. **Notes** that the proposed appropriation of Fund resources the biennium 2000-2001 of 14.23 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget is provisional upon an increase in funding from the United Nations regular budget for the United Nations Office at Nairobi of approximately 2 million dollars in order to strengthen administrative services provided to the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the biennium 2000-2001;

7. **Notes with concern** the large discrepancy in the amount of funding provided from the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Office at Nairobi, in relation that provided to the United Nations Office at Vienna and the United Nations Office at Geneva, and appeals to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session to positively consider a substantial increase in the regular budget allocation to the administration of the United Nations Office at Nairobi in the context of the regular budget for the United Nations for the biennium 2000-2001.

III. Programme of work; revised appropriation for Fund programme activities in the biennium 1998-1999 and appropriation for Fund programme activities in the biennium 2000-2001

Recalling again paragraph 38.21 of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, reaffirming the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and stating that its Governing Council should continue to play its role with regard to policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment, taking into account the development perspective,

Recalling paragraph 11 of its decision SS.V/1 of 22 May 1998, by which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to re-examine the 1998-1999 programme approved by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session in the light of the core elements of the focused mandate of the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its twentieth session;

Recalling paragraph 12 of the same decision by which the Executive Director was authorized to prepare a 2000-2001 programme of work making use of the priorities of the Nairobi Declaration, that establishes a direct and realistic link between the volume of activities to be undertaken and available financing, to be presented to the Governing Council at its twentieth session,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001,

1. **Approves** an appropriation of 100 million dollars for Fund programme activities for the biennium 2000-2001;

2. **Decides** to apportion the appropriation for the biennium 2000-2001 as follows: (see table)

3. **Authorizes** the Executive Director to adjust on a prorata basis the programme activities level of expenditure to bring it in line with possible variations in income compared to the authorized level of expenditure;

4. **Reconfirms** the authority of the Executive Director to adjust the apportionment for each budget line by up to 20 per cent;

5. **Requests** the Executive Director to provide financial detail of work programmes to member Governments in accordance with General Procedures Governing the Operations of the United Nations Environment Programme Article VI, if so requested;

6. **Requests** the Executive Director to take into account, all relevant decisions of the Governing Council on priorities for United Nations Environment Programme activities taken at its twentieth session, in further developing and implementing the environment programme for the biennium 2000-2001, taking account also of funding from other sources;

7. **Further** to the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the United Nations Environment Programme, Article VI, requests the Executive Director to make available to member states, twice a year, information on progress made in the implementation of the programme of work;

8. **Requests** the Executive Director to:

(a) prepare the first draft budget and work programme for the 2002-2003 biennium well in advance of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council in order to allow member states to comment on it; and

(b) submit a finalized draft budget and work programme for consideration and approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-first session;

9. **Requests** the Executive Director, in preparing future budgets and programmes of work, to include corresponding details of the previous budget and programme of work to allow comparison of patterns of activity;

10. **Approves** the programmatic restructuring set out in the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001 consisting of seven sub-programmes and twenty-six subprogramme elements which integrates all elements previously contained in the programme activity centres, as established in earlier decisions of the Governing Council, and, as a result, notes the dissolution of the following programme activity centres: Dryland Ecosystems and Desertification Control, Environmental Law and Institutions, Global Environment Monitoring System, Industry and Environment, International Register for Potentially Toxic Chemicals, INFOTERRA, Global Resource Information Database and Oceans and Coastal Areas.

4. Stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 19/23 of 7 February 1997,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.20/23),

1. **Reaffirms**, as stated in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, that the United Nations Environment Programme needs adequate, stable and predictable financial resources in order to operationalize its mandate, and reiterates the interrelationship between excellence, relevance and cost-effectiveness in programme delivery, confidence in the organization and a consequent increase in the competitive ability of the Programme to attract funding;

2. **Takes note with appreciation** of the efforts undertaken to define the outline of the strategy for stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme contained in the annex to the present decision as a basis for the development of such a strategy;

3. **Requests** the Executive Director to initiate a process of consultations with Governments and other relevant parties, directly and through the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials, in order to fully develop a strategy for sta-

ble, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. Requests the Executive Director to take initial action on the strategy prior to its finalization through the consultative process and its approval by the Governing Council;

5. Calls on Governments and other relevant parties to provide financial and other resources to the United Nations Environment Programme, taking into account the above-mentioned consultative process and the resulting strategy;

6. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

Annex to the proposed programme budget

OUTLINE OF A STRATEGY CONCERNING STABLE, ADEQUATE AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING FOR THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

1. General principles

(a) Need for UNEP to have stable, adequate and predictable financial resources in order to operationalize the focused mandate as contained in the Nairobi Declaration.

(b) Recognition of the interrelationship between excellence, relevance and cost-effectiveness in UNEP's programme delivery, confidence in the organization and a consequent increase in the competitive ability of UNEP to attract funding.

(c) Need for continued reform of UNEP to enhance its programme performance, which should be matched by political will among Governments and other donors to provide UNEP with stable, adequate and predictable financial resources.

(d) Emphasis on transparent procedures in considering the issue of stable, adequate and predictable funding.

(e) Required action should not create additional administrative burden either to UNEP or Governments and other donors.

2. Modalities for linking programme performance, impact and effectiveness of UNEP with its funding

(a) UNEP to prepare a programme of work on the basis of realistic expectations of the forthcoming contributions under the given political and economic environment.

(b) UNEP to intensify communication of its achievements to Governments and other donors.

(c) Objective indicators be developed, subject to regular review, for assessment of programme performance, impact and effectiveness of UNEP as a means for identifying the funding needs.

(d) International platforms be regularly convened for policy dialogue between UNEP and Governments and other donors to assess the programme performance, impact and effectiveness of UNEP and to match that assessment with the level of funding.

3. Stable funding

(a) **Broader donor base.** In addition to Governments, funding also by foundations, non-governmental organizations and other private-sector parties.

(b) **Innovative modalities of funding.** Options might include: agreed contributions; contributions to be determined on the basis of consultations; some form of increased burden-sharing among contributors.

Revised appropriation for Fund programme activities

1. Environmental assessment and early warning	
1.1 Environmental assessment and reporting	10,700,000
1.2 Systems and networks for data/information generation, analysis, observing and early warning	8,856,000
1.3 Environmental science and research	320,000
1.4 Access to environmental information and public participation in decision-making	4,124,000
Subtotal	24,000,000
2. Policy development and law	
2.1 Policy analysis, review and development	2,708,000
2.2 Legal, economic and other instruments	7,727,311
2.3 Policy coordination and inter-agency affairs	1,888,689
2.4 Resource mobilization	676,000
Subtotal	13,000,000
3. Policy implementation	
3.1 Technical cooperation	5,490,000
3.2 Coordination of emergency response	1,510,000
Subtotal	7,000,000
4. Technology, industry and economics	
4.1 Environmental technologies and technology cooperation	1,370,000
4.2 Production and consumption	6,040,000
4.3 Chemicals	8,200,000
4.4 Energy and Ozon Action	1,900,000
4.5 Economics and trade	3,347,000
4.6 Division office and regional officers	2,143,000
Subtotal	23,000,000
5. Regional cooperation and representation	
5.1 Regional policy, planning and servicing based at headquarters	2,730,000
5.2 Regional offices	17,770,000
Africa	3,160,000
Asia and the Pacific	3,370,000
Europe	3,900,000
Latin America and the Caribbean	3,680,000
North America	1,080,000
West Asia	2,580,000
Subtotal	20,500,000
6. Environmental conventions	
6.1 Policy and programme linkages	1,350,000
6.2 Internal coordination for development of new conventions/agreements	100,000
6.3 Coordination of provision of UNEP programmatic support	5,325,000
Subtotal	6,775,000
7. Communication and public information	
7.1 Spokesperson's functions	480,000
7.2 Media services	1,820,000
7.3 Public affairs	1,035,000
7.4 Publications and writing/editorial services	1,700,000
7.5 Public query-response and library services	690,000
Subtotal	5,725,000
Grand total	100,000,000

(c) Ways to offset or minimize the effects of exchange-rate fluctuations.

4. Adequate funding

(a) Recognition of the linkage between adequacy of financial resources, or the level of funding, and programme performance, impact and effectiveness.

(b) Modalities to link the budget with outputs achieved, with a view to identifying the adequacy of funding.

5. Predictable funding

(a) **Timely payment of contributions.** A format might be agreed to ensure that the payment is made in the first quarter or first half of the year, which would enable early allocations and hence better planning.

(b) UNEP should be notified in advance of the amount of the contributions concerned and when to expect the payment.

(c) Need to have a flexible and practical mechanism concerning the modality of payment that takes into account the administrative and budgetary procedure, such as the budget cycle, and relevant legislation in countries.

(d) **Feasibility of multi-year pledges.** A possible scenario might be a firm pledge for the first (current) year, with the announcement of indicative contributions for the second year and tentative contributions for the third year (or following years).

(e) Use of formal mechanisms to ensure the predictability of contributions, such as memoranda of understanding between the prospective contributors and UNEP concerning the amount of contributions and schedule of payment.

(f) A mechanism to be established to provide Governments with an early warning of forthcoming shortfalls in financial resources of UNEP so that remedial action could be taken. ➤

6. Monitoring

Modalities for monitoring and measuring the programme performance, impact and effectiveness of the outputs of UNEP's programme activities, in order to promote, inter alia, a more transparent decision-making process with regard to the funding of UNEP.

5. Management of trust funds and counterpart contributions

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds (UNEP/GC.20/25),

The Governing Council,

1. **Notes and approves** the establishment of the following trust funds since its nineteenth session:

(a) **General trust funds:**

- (i) The General Trust Fund for Environmental Emergencies, which was established in 1997 and with no fixed expiry date;
- (ii) The General Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the UNEP Financial Services Initiative on the Environment, which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;
- (iii) The General Trust Fund in Support of the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), and Related Information Exchange and Technical Assistance, which was established in 1997 and with no fixed expiry date;
- (iv) The General Trust Fund in Support of the Work of the UNEP High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials, which was established in 1997 and with no fixed expiry date;
- (v) The General Trust Fund in Support of the Preparation for and Negotiation of an Internationally Legally Binding Instrument for International Action on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and – Related Information Exchange and Technical Assistance Activities, which was established in 1997 and with no fixed expiry date;
- (vi) The General Trust Fund in Support of the Implementation of Governing Council Decisions in the North American Region, which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;
- (b) **Technical cooperation trust funds:**
 - (i) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the UNEPnet Implementation Centre (financed by the Government of Norway), which was established in 1997 and with an expiry date of 31 December 2002;
 - (ii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Establishment of Regional Centres under the Basel Convention (financed by the Government of Switzerland), which was established in 1997 and with an expiry date of 31 December 1999;
 - (iii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Production of an Information Video Booklet on Working Safely with Hydrocarbons in Domestic and Small-scale Commercial Refrigeration (financed by the Government of Germany), which was established in 1998 and with an expiry date of 31 December 1998;
 - (iv) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), which was established in 1998 and with an expiry date of 31 December 2003;
 - (v) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of UNEP's Implementation of Enabling and Pioneering Environmental Projects (financed by the Government of Germany), which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;

- (vi) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Meetings of the UNEP High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials (financed by the Government of the United States of America), which was established in 1997 and with no fixed expiry date;
 - (vii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Promotion of Cleaner Production Investments in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Norway), which was established in 1998 and with an expiry date of 31 December 2001;
 - (viii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP's Implementation of Activities Funded by the United Nations Fund for International Partnership (UNFIP), which was established 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;
 - (ix) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of Meetings of Subcommittees or Working Groups on Programmatic and Administrative Reform of UNEP (financed by the Government of the United States of America), which was established in 1997 and with no fixed expiry date;
 - (x) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of a Senior Programme Officer to the UNEP/GPA Office in The Hague (financed by the Government of France), which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;
 - (xi) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Professional Officers to Ozone Secretariat (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;
 - (xii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the UNEP Executive Directors's Implementation of Personnel Reforms in the UNEP Secretariat (financed by the Government of the United States of America), which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;
 - (xiii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of an Associate Programme Officer to UNEP/New York Office (financed by the Government of Switzerland), which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;
 - (xiv) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers (financed by the Nordic Governments through the Government of Sweden), which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;
 - (xv) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of an Executive Assistant of the Executive Director (financed by the Government of the United Kingdom), which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date; and
 - (xvi) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of a Mining Expert (financed by the South African Chamber of Mines), which was established in 1997 and with no fixed expiry date;
2. **Notes and approves** the extension of the following trust funds by the Executive Director:
- (a) **General trust funds:**
- (i) The General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), through 31 December 2000;
 - (ii) The Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, through 31 December 2004;
 - (iii) The Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, through 31 December 2004;
 - (vi) The General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2001;
 - (v) The General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2001;

- (vi) The General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2001;
 - (vii) The Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, through 31 December 2000;
 - (viii) The Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, through 31 December 2000;
 - (b) **Technical cooperation trust funds:** the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action in Accordance with Agenda 21 (financed by the Government of Sweden), through 31 December 1999;
3. **Approves** the extension of the following trust funds subject to the United Nations Environment Programme receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or contracting parties:
- (a) **General trust funds:**
- (1) The General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), through 31 December 2002;
 - (ii) The Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, through 31 December 2001;
 - (iii) The Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region, through 31 December 2001;
 - (iv) The Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas, through 31 December 2001;
 - (v) The Trust Fund for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean, through 31 December 2001;
 - (vi) The Trust Fund for Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, through 31 December 2001;
 - (vii) The Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, through 31 December 2004;
 - (viii) The General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of North-west Pacific Region, through 31 December 2001;
 - (ix) The Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, through 31 December 2004;
 - (x) The Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region, through 31 December 2001;
- (b) **Technical cooperation trust funds:**
- (i) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of Agenda 21 in Europe and to Strengthen the Pan-European Environmental Cooperation (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), through 31 December 2001;
 - (ii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Establishment of Regional Centres under the Basel Convention (financed by the Government of Switzerland), through 31 December 2001;
 - (iii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Consultancies to Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Finland), through 31 December 1999;
 - (iv) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Strengthen the Institutional and Regulatory Capacity of Developing Countries in Africa (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), through 31 December 2001;
 - (v) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in

Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Sweden), through 31 December 2001;

(vi) The INFOTERRA Technical Cooperation Trust Fund (financed by the Government of the United States of America), through 31 December 2000; and

(vii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Promote Technical Cooperation and Assistance in Industrial, Environmental and Raw Materials Management (financed by the Government of Sweden), through 31 December 2000;

4. **Notes and approves** the closure of the following trust fund by the Executive Director: the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Short-term Experts to Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Germany);

5. **Notes and approves** the closure of the following trust funds by the Executive Director subject to completion of their activities and clearance of all financial implications before the twenty-first regular session of the Governing Council:

(a) **General trust funds:** the Regional Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of Bahrain, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates;

(b) **Technical cooperation trust funds:**

(i) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action in Accordance with Agenda 21 (financed by the Government of Sweden);

(ii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Consultancies to Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Finland);

(iii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Activities in Developing Countries on Environmental Awareness and Machinery (financed by the Government of Germany);

(iv) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Organization of a Technology Transfer Workshop on the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol for French-speaking African Countries (financed by the Government of France);

(v) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Establishment of a GRID Centre in Arendal (financed by the Government of Norway);

(vi) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Production of an Information Video Booklet on Working Safely with Hydrocarbons in Domestic and Small-scale Commercial Refrigeration (financed by the Government of Germany);

(vii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Develop and Coordinate the Implementation of the Plan for the Survey, Assessment and Dealing with the Consequences of Environmental Damage Caused by Conflict between Kuwait and Iraq;

(viii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Promote Managerial Innovation and Excellence (financed by the Government of the United States of America); and

(ix) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action for the Protection of the Ozone Layer under the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol (financed by the Government of Finland).

6. The cost of administering trust funds and counterpart contributions

The Governing Council,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Executive Director on the cost of administering trust funds (UNEP/GC.20/26);

2. **Requests** the Executive Director to implement appropriate actions directed towards reducing the cost of programme-support services provided to trust funds and related activities with a view to containing such cost within the pro-

gramme support charges levied. These actions should include, inter alia:

(a) That the full 13 per cent support charge continues to be levied on all trust-fund expenditure and is also levied on directly related expenditure financed from voluntary additional contributions, such as counterpart contributions, in support of conventions and other trust-fund activities;

(b) To review the direct allocations provided to trust-fund-financed units, programmes and projects, as opposed to allocations provided to central administrative services, with a view to ensuring that trust-fund-financed units, programmes or projects do not incur a disproportionate burden on the programme-support charges levied;

(c) To ensure that the programme-support charges levied are not allocated towards activities of a programmatic nature, thereby decreasing the allocation available for provision of management and administrative services;

(d) To streamline and rationalize the provision of management and administrative services in an effort to continue decreasing related costs;

3. **Requests** the Executive Director to keep the issue under review and to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on developments regarding the cost of administration of trust funds and related contributions and activities.

7. Mercure satellite communications system

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 17/38 21 May 1993, 18/47 of 25 May 1995 and 19/30 of 7 February 1997,

1. **Welcomes** the report of the Executive Director on the Mercure Satellite telecommunications system (UNEP/GC.20/30), which contains an indicative review and cost-benefit analysis of the system;

2. **Notes** that the Mercure satellite telecommunications system was formally handed over to the United Nations Environment Programme by the European Space Agency in November 1997, and that the project budget of the European Space Agency will be closed on 31 March 1999;

3. **Expresses** its gratitude to the Government of Norway for its generous contribution to the United Nations Environment Programme to establish and maintain the UNEPnet Implementation Centre in Arendal, Norway essential to the successful operation and maintenance of Mercure and UNEPnet, as well as Austria, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom which have provided technical and financial contributions to the development of the project;

4. **Notes with appreciation** that all earth stations of the Mercure system are fully operational, and are providing substantive improvements in the telecommunication services for UNEP at reduced costs, as well as facilitating the transfer of and access to environmental data;

5. **Encourages** the Executive Director to further enhance the cost-effectiveness of the Mercure network by achieving optimal cost integration with the United Nations global telecommunications system, particularly with regard to the availability of voice telephony and the sharing of all Mercure services with United Nations agencies in Nairobi;

6. **Requests** the Government of Kenya, in consultation with the Executive Director, as a matter of urgency and with regard to further stabilizing and strengthening Nairobi as a United Nations location, to facilitate the implementation of voice telephony on Mercure to the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations agencies in Nairobi;

7. **Calls upon** the Executive Director to examine means for improving communications between the Secretariat and Permanent Missions in Nairobi with the assistance of the United Nations Office at Nairobi;

8. Encourages the Executive Director to continue to make the UNEPnet/Mercure system available for utilization by the United Nations telecommunications system and other organizations in the United Nations system on a cost sharing basis at sites where technically and economically feasible;

9. Encourages the Executive Director to expand co-funded efforts with partner organizations of the United Nations Environment Programme for discussion on the continued implementation, operation and utilization of UNEPnet/Mercure;

10. Authorizes the Executive Director to engage in collaborative programmes with other donors to provide for discussions on the expansion of the existing UNEPnet/Mercure infrastructure through extra-budgetary support;

11. Notes that, despite the impression conveyed in the reports of the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the United Nations Environment Programme did have the authority to sign the agreement on the Mercure project with the European Space Agency on behalf of the United Nations, and that the Mercure system does provide cost-effective services and positive benefits to the United Nations Environment Programme, and urges the Executive Director to bring the content of his report on the Mercure satellite communications system (UNEP/GC.20/30) to the attention of the said bodies, with a view to rectification of those errors;

12. Requests the Executive Director to ensure a comprehensive review and cost-benefit analysis of the UNEPnet/Mercure system, including the UNEPnet Implementation Centre, is presented to the Governing Council at its next session and is brought to the attention of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Board of Auditors;

13. Encourages countries with relevant environmental data and information assets of value for improved environmental monitoring and management to make them readily accessible to all countries, especially developing countries, for ease of delivery through this initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme.

8. Freshwater

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 19/14 D of 7 February 1997 and SS.V/4 of 22 May 1998,

1. **Takes note** of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP (OCA)/LBA/IG.2/7);

2. Also **takes note** of the report of the Executive Director on the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on freshwater issues (UNEP/GC.20/31);

3. Also **takes note** of the Freshwater Strategy contained in the annex to the report of the Executive Director as a proposed framework for the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, to address freshwater issues and carry out activities in the field of freshwater;

4. **Stresses** the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the environmental aspect of sustainable development and integrated management of freshwater;

5. **Welcomes** the focus of the United Nations Environment Programme's work on freshwater on the environmental aspects of assessment

and sustainable integrated management in accordance with national needs;

6. **Requests** the Executive Director to intensify collaborative activities with Governments, upon request, as well as agencies and organizations both inside and outside the United Nations system in the environmental aspects of freshwater consistent with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the priorities outlined in Governing Council decisions 19/14 D and SS.V/4;

7. **Decides** that the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate and taking into account national priorities, should place a high priority on identifying expertise and knowledge resident in countries relating to freshwater quality, the establishment of partnership between those countries and countries in need of that expertise and knowledge and the promotion of intergovernmental collaboration;

8. **Requests** the Executive Director to identify key policy issues for freshwater quality arising from the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme to date, in line with the decision of CSD 6 the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, and to propose policy options for debate and endorsement by the Governing Council at its twenty-first session;

9. **Requests** the Executive Director to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme, when undertaking its activities related to the environmental aspects of freshwater, takes into account the work carried out by other United Nations agencies and international organizations as well as by national Governments in order to avoid unnecessary duplication;

10. **Requests** the Executive Director to promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for freshwater management through the International Environmental Technology Centre;

11. **Requests** the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council, at its twenty-first session, the progress in the implementation of the present decision and in related environmental issues.

9. Biosafety The Governing Council,

Anticipating the outcome of the process towards the sixth and final meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety, to be held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 14-19 February 1999,

Recognizing the possibility that the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be determining a work programme on biosafety pending entry into force of the biosafety protocol,

Bearing in mind the need of many developing countries to build regulatory capacity with respect to biosafety,

Noting with satisfaction the effective development and implementation on an interim basis of the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology (UNEP/Global Consultation/Biosafety/41 Annex II),

Noting with satisfaction the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of its decision 19/16 of 7 February 1997 on biosafety (UNEP/GC.20/33),

1. **Requests** the Executive Director to support, in the context of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and any work programme that may be developed, appropriate development of the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology in view of rapid changes and developments in the field of modern technology, in close collabora-

tion with the relevant international organizations;

2. **Requests** also the Executive Director to assist Governments in implementing the forthcoming biosafety protocol in a manner as agreed by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention;

3. **Requests** the Executive Director to continue mobilizing resources, including through the Global Environment Facility, for support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to prepare effective national biosafety frameworks in the context of the proposed biosafety protocol, in collaboration with the secretariat of, and consistent with the obligations of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (under article 8 (g) of the Convention), taking into account the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology;

4. **Requests** the Executive Director to continue promoting greater awareness of biosafety issues and subregional or regional cooperation in the enhancement of capacities for exchange and supply of information on safety in biotechnology and training;

5. **Notes with appreciation** the Global Environment Facility to support the Pilot Biosafety Enabling Activity Project, and taking into account the necessary evaluation and review of that Project, invites the Facility to extend such support in the field of capacity-building for issues related to biosafety to other developing countries and countries with economies in transition in accordance with Decisions 11/5, III/5 and 111/20 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

6. **Requests** the Executive Director to support as appropriate, the establishment and further strengthening of subregional and regional biosafety risk-assessment capabilities in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant organizations.

10. Support to Africa The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on Support to Africa (UNEP/GC.20/34),

Recalling its decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998 in which support to Africa was identified as a priority for the United Nations Environment Programme,

Aware that African countries are vulnerable to the environmental problems of global concern, such as climate change, land degradation and desertification, oceans, biological diversity, sound management of freshwater and wastes management, and the need for intensified efforts in assisting them in combating such problems as they pursue their environmental goals,

Conscious that the lack of adequate national environmental legislation and relevant institutional arrangements and means for enforcing regulatory measures is one of the major problems encountered by African countries in effectively addressing environmental challenges,

Affirming the urgent need to strengthen the technical capacities of the representatives of African countries to the conferences of parties of the global environmental conventions and their subsidiary bodies, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

I. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

1. **Notes with appreciation** the special consultation of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Nairobi in October 1998 to consider a common African position at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and supporting role of the United Nations Environment Programme in this regard;

2. **Requests** the Executive Director to continue providing support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment with a view to facilitating the integration of global and African environmental agendas;

3. **Also requests** the Executive Director to enhance the coordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme, and in particular the Regional Office for Africa, in promoting programmatic coherence among activities in Africa carried out in connection with the implementation of regional and global conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, as well as in enhancing the participation of African countries in international environmental negotiations;

4. **Requests** the Executive Director to strengthen cooperation and collaboration with African regional and subregional organizations, in particular the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity, in order to effectively address environmental issues of common interest in a cost-efficient manner;

II. ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES

5. **Requests** the Executive Director to continue providing, upon request, assistance to African countries, in particular in the areas identified as the core elements of the focused mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, and taking into account the interlinkages of various sectoral environmental issues, such as those among freshwater, forestry and land degradation;

6. **Requests** the Executive Director to continue providing African countries with technical, legal and policy advice for the development of national legislation and relevant institutions dealing with environmental matters;

7. **Requests** the Executive Director to assist African countries in promoting environmentally sound technologies, and in promoting African national capacities in this field;

8. **Further requests** the Executive Director to explore ways and means for the United Nations Environment Programme to effectively assist African countries in formulating Global Environment Facility projects, with the aim of increasing the African share in projects funded by Facility implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme;

9. **Requests** the Executive Director, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility as appropriate, to continue strengthening the capacity of African countries through the provision of training and relevant information as may enhance their effective participation in the development and implementation of global environmental conventions, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa;

III. PRIORITIES

10. **Requests** the Executive Director, in implementing the priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme in Africa, to give high priority within its focused mandate to assisting African countries in implementing their commitments under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa;

11. **Requests** the Executive Director to further strengthen the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of environmental assessment and monitoring in Africa with a view to assisting African countries;

12. **Requests also** the Executive Director in revising the work programme for 1999 to take into account the priorities set forth in the present decision;

13. **Requests** the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

11. Chemicals Management

The Governing Council,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on chemicals management (UNEP/GC.20/37, UNEP/GC.20/39, UNEP/GC.20/41, and UNEP/GC.20/INF/20),

1. **Notes with appreciation** the actions taken pursuant to those elements of Governing Council decision 19/13 endorsed by the Governing Council in February 1997;

2. **Invites** the Executive Director to consider preparing for a general policy discussion, if deemed appropriate on chemical management, in accordance with decision 19/13, at the Governing Council session in the year 2001.

12. Promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind its decisions 19/1 of 7 February 1997 on the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, and SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, on revitalization, reform and strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs (UNEP/GC.20/40).

Mindful of the importance of the scientific and policy interlinkages among global environmental issues, and their relevance to the human needs of food, shelter, health and clean water,

Noting with appreciation the constructive collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank in this initiative, as well as the financial support provided by the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration,

1. **Welcomes** the report Protecting Our Planet, Securing Our Future: Linkages Among Global Environmental Issues and Human Needs;

2. **Urges** Governments to take into consideration the conclusions and recommendations of the report in the preparation of their national environment and sustainable development strategies and plans;

3. **Underscores** that sustainable development depends on a healthy local, national, regional and global environment, and that the United Nations Environment Programme has a major role to play in promoting actions at all levels that are designed to sustain the continued adequate functioning of ecological systems;

4. **Requests** the Executive Director to continue to address global environmental issues with-

in a more holistic and synergistic policy framework so as to improve the scientific and policy interlinkages among global environmental issues and the ways in which they influence ability of countries to meet basic human needs, taking special note of the scientific and policy linkages among global and regional environmental conventions and other relevant international agreements;

5. **Requests** the Executive Director to recognize that effective policy implementation that links global environmental issues and sustainable development requires:

(a) Scientific understanding of the nature of the links among environmental issues and their relationships to meeting human needs, to facilitate the balancing of competing needs and the identification of strategies that capture as many benefits as possible;

(b) Identification of innovative combinations of policies that are effective and cost-efficient and that encourage the public and private sectors to work together;

(c) Political will and public commitment to seriously address global environmental issues, including the setting of realistic goals the identification of creative paths for achieving them; and

(d) Improved coordination among the national and international institutions charged with developing and encouraging adoption of policies and measures to meet human needs, without undermining the environmental foundation for development;

7. **Urges** the World Bank and other international, regional and national organizations concerned to collaborate with the United Nations Environment Programme in this endeavour;

8. **Requests** the Executive Director to transmit the conclusions and recommendations of the report to the governing bodies of global environment conventions and relevant international agreements.

13. International action to protect health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international action to protect human health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emission and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument (UNEP/GC.20/41),

1. **Welcomes** the progress in the preparation of an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain organic pollutants as well as the implementation of the immediate actions called for in paragraph 13 of its decision 19/13 C of 7 February 1997;

2. **Invites** the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Organic Pollutants to continue its work with a view to the conclusion of a legally binding instrument by the year 2000;

3. **Requests** the Executive Director to continue taking the actions as requested by the Governing Council in its decision 19/13 C, including the immediate actions identified in paragraph 13 of that decision;

4. **Calls upon** Governments as well as inter-governmental and non-governmental organi-

zations to consider providing financial contributions for further negotiations of an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain organic pollutants, particularly through the "POPS Club";

5. **Encourages** Governments as well as inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to provide financial and in-kind contributions for supporting the implementation of the immediate actions as called for in paragraph 13 of Governing Council decision 19/13 C;

6. **Requests** the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

14. Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in the key area of economics, trade and financial services

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in the key area of economics, trade and financial services (UNEP/GC.20/43),

1. **Requests** the Executive Director to further assist countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in order to help enhance their capacities to integrate environmental considerations with development planning and decision-making;

2. **Further requests** the Executive Director to provide such assistance through the further development of training in, and application of, environmental impact assessment and valuation, methodologies for natural resource accounting and relevant economic instruments at the national level; such assistance may be provided in connection with the implementation by the above-mentioned countries of multilateral environmental agreements and should be designed to reflect the socio-economic and development priorities as well as needs and capacities of individual countries;

3. **Requests also** the Executive Director to continue to examine policy options for effectively addressing challenges of integrating environmental considerations with trade and trade policies, with a view to assisting Governments in their efforts to develop mutually supportive trade and environment policies. For this purpose, due consideration should be given, inter alia, to international cooperation in environmentally sound technologies, financial transfers and the use of market-based incentives;

4. **Requests** the Executive Director to continue to assist countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in order to improve understanding of the environmental effects of trade with a view to enabling them to develop and implement policies which could integrate environmental considerations with trade policies;

5. **Further requests** the Executive Director to continue to carry out analytical studies, in close collaboration with the environmental conventions for which the United Nations Environment Programme provides secretariat services, on, inter alia, the effectiveness of market-based incentives in achieving the objectives of those conventions and the relationship between trade measures contained in the conventions and international trade policy;

6. **Requests** the Executive Director to continue to cooperate actively with other international organizations dealing with the relationship between the environment and trade, in particular the World Trade Organization and the

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

7. **Also requests** the Executive Director, to continue to collaborate with the private sector, in particular; industry and the financial service sector, with a view to enhancing their contribution to sustainable development activities and programmes through the integration of environmental considerations into the internal and external operations of these institutions;

8. **Requests** the Executive Director to strengthen the capacities of the secretariat to carry out the tasks identified in the present decision.

15. Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1996-1997 ended 31 December 1997

The Governing Council,

1. **Takes note** of the observations/of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial report and audited financial statements of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1996-1997 ended 31 December 1997 (UNEP/GC.20/27, paras. 3-8);

2. **Takes note also** of the comments of the Executive Director on the observations of the Advisory Committee (UNEP/GC.20/24, paras. 9-15).

Environmental conventions

A. Status of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment*

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.20/18),

Recalling its decision 24 (III) of 30 April 1975 and General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Executive Director;

2. **Authorizes** the Executive Director to transmit the report, on its behalf, together with any comments made by delegations thereon as well as further information which the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme might receive by 31 May 1999, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, in accordance with resolution 3436 (XXX);

3. **Calls on** States that have not yet signed, ratified or acceded to conventions and protocols in the field of the environment to do so;

4. **Calls also on** States and organizations that are in a position to do so to provide the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme with information on new conventions and protocols in the field of the environment as well as information on any changes to the status of the existing conventions and protocols in the field of the environment.

B. Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions and in providing programmatic support to multilateral environmental conventions

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, on the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 47/191 of 22 December 1992, on institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

and S/19-2 of 28 June 1997, on the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,

Bearing in mind also its decisions 19/1 of 7 February 1997, on the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, and SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, on revitalization, reform and strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions (UNEP/GC.20/16), programmatic support of the United Nations Environment Programme to multilateral environmental conventions (UNEP/GC.20/17), and promoting inter linkages among global environmental issues and human needs (UNEP/GC.20/40),

Mindful of the importance of promoting interlinkages among multilateral environmental conventions and international processes, related thereto and conscious of the desirability of mitigating fragmentation of international environmental policy-making,

I. PROMOTION OF COLLABORATION AMONG MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS

1. **Calls upon** Governments that are parties to the multilateral environmental conventions and their conferences of the parties to give due consideration to ways and means to strengthen coherent interlinkages among relevant conventions, including the importance for harmonized procedures for the national reporting envisaged thereunder;

2. **Emphasizes** that the United Nations Environment Programme should intensify its catalytic role to stimulate and support collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions and international processes related thereto with a view to the strengthening of coherent interlinkages among such conventions and processes in line with the decisions of their respective conferences of the parties;

3. **Affirms** that the United Nations Environment Programme should:

(a) Promote, in cooperation with their respective governing bodies, the strengthening of coherent interlinkages among multilateral environmental conventions and international processes related thereto;

(b) Enhance, in cooperation with their respective governing bodies, the linkages among the various scientific and information monitoring processes that underpin multilateral environmental conventions and international processes related thereto in order to provide a bridge between science, information and policy; and

(c) Provide continued substantive support to multilateral environmental conventions and international processes related thereto in accordance with their provisions and decisions of their conferences of the parties;

4. **Urges** the Executive Director to consult multilateral environmental conventions, through their secretariats, with a view to identifying areas of common interest and opportunities for synergy in line with the decisions taken under these conventions;

5. **Requests** the Executive Director, in cooperation with the respective convention secretariats, to support, and coordinate as appropriate, collaboration and promote interlinkages among multilateral environmental conventions in line with the decisions of their respective conferences of the parties;

II. PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS

6. **Requests** the Executive Director to explore with multilateral environmental conventions, through their secretariats, areas of cooperation and suitable modalities in support of the implementation of the programmes of work of the respective conventions, taking into account the scientific and technical expertise that the United Nations Environment Programme can contribute, in line with the decisions of their respective conferences of the parties;

7. **Encourages** the conferences of parties to multilateral environmental conventions to support the establishment of programmatic interlinkages between the programmes of work of their conventions and the United Nations Environment Programme;

8. **Requests** the Executive Director, upon request, to make available technical, scientific and legal expertise of the United Nations Environment Programme to assist multilateral environmental conventions in achieving their objectives;

9. **Also requests** the Executive Director, upon request, to further assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, upon request, in strengthening their legal and other capacities in implementing multilateral environmental conventions;

10. **Requests** the Executive Director to submit a report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on the progress made in the implementation of the present decision.

Report on the work of subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 19/1 of 7 February 1997 and the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme annex thereto,

Recalling also its decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997 on governance of the United Nations Environment Programme in which the Governing Council decided, inter alia, that the governance structure established by that decision shall be reviewed by the Council at its twenty-first session, with a view to assessing its effectiveness taking into account any relevant results of the reform process of the United Nations system,

Takes note of the reports and the work of the Committee of Permanent Representative and the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials undertaken in accordance with their respective mandates (UNEP/GC.20/12).

Assessment of the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 19/29 B of 4 April 1997,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives concerning the assessment of the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.20/13);

2. **Welcomes** the recommendations concerning the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme contained therein, and urges the Executive Director to take these recommendations into account;

3. **Requests** the Executive Director to keep the Committee of the Permanent Representatives informed of the progress made regarding the recommendations.

* L.6/Rev.1

* L.7/Rev.1

Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions and nineteenth special session, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme*

The Governing Council,

Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions and at its nineteenth special session, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.20/14), and the actions indicated therein.

* L.8/Rev.1

RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TASK FORCE

Views of the Governing Council on the report of the Secretary-General on Environment and Human Settlement

The Governing Council,

Taking into account the fact that the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on environment and human settlements (A/53/463) is under consideration in the General Assembly and also taking into account the request of the Secretary-General to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide its views thereon,

Recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session which emphasizes that the United Nations Environment Programme has been and must continue to be the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment and that its role is to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Recalling its decisions 19/32 of 4 April 1997, on the governance of the United Nations Environment Programme, and SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, on revitalization, reform and strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which it decided, inter alia, to review the ongoing reform of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting the distinction made by the Secretary-General between recommendations requiring action at the Secretariat level from those requiring decisions and measures at the intergovernmental level,

* L.14

1. **Responds** to the request of the Secretary-General to the Governing Council and decides to express its views as follows:

(a) The Governing Council **Welcomes** the report of the Secretary-General on Environment and Human Settlements (A/53/463) submitted to the fifty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, in which he puts forth the recommendations of the United Nations Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements on reforming and strengthening United Nations activities in the field of environment and human settlements, and expresses its appreciation for the comprehensive and forward-looking recommendations of the Task Force under the Chairmanship of the Executive Director;

(b) **Notes with appreciation** the intention of the President of the General Assembly that the Assembly, at its current session, consider in a fully open and transparent manner, as soon as possible, the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements;

(c) **Takes note** of the recommendations intended for action by intergovernmental bodies relating to linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions; intergovernmental forums; and involvement of major groups, as outlined in part IV of the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements (A/53/463);

(d) **Welcomes** the general thrust of the actions proposed to be taken by the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme at the Secretariat level relating to: inter-agency coordination; linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions; the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat) and the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON); information, monitoring, assessment and early warning; involvement of major groups; and future initiatives, as outlined in part III of the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements;

(e) **Expresses its support** for the proposal of the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of an Environmental Management Group for the coordination of the environmental and human settlements activities of the United Nations system, and encourages the Secretary-General to undertake consultations with the members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to develop its scope, appropriate criteria for membership and working methods in a flexible and cost-effective manner for its expeditious establishment;

(f) **Welcomes** the proposals for the facilitation and support by the United Nations Environment Programme of enhanced coordination amongst the bureaux and secretariats of environment and environment related conventions, taking into account the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomy of the conferences of the parties to

the convention and in this regard notes its decision UNEP/GC.20/L. 6/Rev. 1, on environmental conventions;

(g) **Expresses its support** for the proposal of the Secretary-General that an annual ministerial level, global environmental forum be instituted and that regular biennial sessions of the UNEP Governing Council constitute that forum in the years that it meets, and that in alternate years the forum should take the form of the special session of the Governing Council meeting in different regions as a ministerial-level forum in which participants can gather to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment, and keeping in mind the need to retain the effective and efficient functioning of the governance mechanisms of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as possible financial implications;

(h) **Welcomes** the recommendations of the Secretary-General on future action-oriented agendas of the Governing Council and the structuring and timing of its meetings in order to enhance coordination with the Commission on Sustainable Development and the conference of the parties to environmental and environment-related conventions;

(i) **Takes note** of the proposal concerning universal membership of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the on-going debate in this regard;

(j) **Agrees with** the proposal of the Secretary-General that, particularly in the light of the recommendation to establish an annual ministerial-level forum, the future role of the United Nations Environment Programme High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials should be considered;

(k) **Welcomes** the proposals of the Secretary-General on further enhancing the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in providing environmental advocacy, analysis and advice in shaping the priorities and programmes of the Global Environment Facility consistent with the United Nations Environment Programme's envisaged role in the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, and in this regard notes its decision 20/73;

(l) **Welcomes** the recommendations concerning the facilitation of coherent approaches to the need to constructively engage non-governmental organizations and civil society in the work of the United Nations, in the light of the experiences gained in the Habitat II and Commission on Sustainable Development processes;

(m) **Expresses** the hope that its views will assist in further deliberations and an expeditious resolution of this important matter in the competent forums;

2. **Requests** the Executive Director to convey the views of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, as contained in this decision to the Secretary General. □