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on the work
of its fourth session

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IGOSS	Integrated Global Ocean Station System
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMCO	Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
IRS	International Referral System
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHHSF	United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

INTRODUCTION

1. The report of the fourth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is herewith submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972.
2. The fourth session of the Governing Council was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 30 March to 14 April 1976. The present report 1/ was adopted by the Council at its 59th meeting on 14 April 1976.

1/ Previously issued under the symbol UNEP/GC/85 and Corr.1-3.

CHAPTER I

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Opening of the session

3. The session was declared open by the Honourable Helena Z. Benitez (Philippines), President of the third session.

Attendance

4. The following States members of the Governing Council ^{2/} were represented at the session: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zaire.

5. The following States not members of the Governing Council were represented: Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Chile, Denmark, German Democratic Republic, Holy See, Israel, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Turkey and United Republic of Tanzania.

6. The United Nations Secretariat was represented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

7. The following United Nations bodies and regional commissions were represented: Economic Commission for Africa, Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and United Nations Development Programme.

8. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO). The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was also represented.

^{2/} The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 2199th, 2321st and 2432nd plenary meetings of the General Assembly, on 13 December 1973, 16 December 1974 and 9 December 1975.

de la santé (OMS), Banque internationale pour la reconstruction et le développement (BIRD), Organisation météorologique mondiale (OMM) et Organisation inter-gouvernementale consultative de la navigation maritime (OMCI). L'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique (AIEA) était également représentée.

9. Les autres organisations intergouvernementales ci-après étaient représentées : Organisation de la Ligue arabe pour l'éducation, la science et la culture, Commission des communautés économiques européennes, Secrétariat du Commonwealth, Ligue des Etats arabes et Organisation de l'unité africaine. En outre, 36 organisations non gouvernementales et deux mouvements de libération nationale se sont fait représenter par des observateurs.

Election du Bureau

10. A la 41^{ème} séance (séance d'ouverture), le 30 mars 1976, M. Francisco Vizcaino Murray (Mexique) a été élu Président par acclamation. A la même séance, le Conseil d'administration a élu M. Rio Rachwartono (Indonésie), Mme Lessedjina Kiaba Lama (Zaïre) et M. Zoltan Rakonczai (Hongrie) Vice-Présidents; M. Thomas Palme (Suède) a été élu Rapporteur.

Vérification des pouvoirs

11. A sa 56^{ème} séance, le 13 avril 1976, le Conseil d'administration a approuvé le rapport de son Bureau sur la vérification des pouvoirs des représentants à sa quatrième session (UNEP/GC/L.40 et Corr.1).

Ordre du jour

12. A sa 41^{ème} séance, le Conseil d'administration a adopté l'ordre du jour provisoire de la quatrième session tel qu'il avait été approuvé à la troisième session 3/, avec les modifications suggérées par le Directeur exécutif dans sa note (UNEP/GC/56 et Corr.2). L'ordre du jour adopté est le suivant :

1. Ouverture de la session.
2. Election du Bureau.
3. Ordre du jour et organisation des travaux de la session.
4. Vérification des pouvoirs des représentants.
5. Rapport du Directeur exécutif et état de l'environnement :
 - a) Rapport introductif du Directeur exécutif
 - b) Rapport sur l'état de l'environnement.

3/ Documents officiels de l'Assemblée générale, troisième session, Supplément No 25 (A/10025), p. 132.

- (b) Review of the status of the programme;
 - (c) Review of Fund programme activities, 1976-1977.
8. Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements - Progress report.
9. United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation:
- (a) Progress report;
 - (b) Provisional general procedures governing the operations of the Foundation;
 - (c) Budget report (1975-1977).
10. United Nations Conference on Desertification: progress report.
11. Management of the Environment Fund and financial matters:
- (a) Report on the implementation of the Fund programme in 1975;
 - (b) Review and approval of the over-all level of Fund programme activities for 1976-1977;
 - (c) Procedural and regulatory matters;
 - (d) Audited 1974 accounts;
 - (e) Revised estimates for programme and programme support costs, 1976-1977;
 - (f) Review of the Fund programme for 1976-1977 and of the medium-term plan for the period 1976-1979.
12. Report on progress made on draft principles of conduct for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious exploitation of natural resources shared by two or more States.
13. Review of institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation.
14. Environment and development.
15. Reports and studies called for by General Assembly resolution 3326 (XXIX):
- (a) Irrational and wasteful use of natural resources;
 - (b) Ecodevelopment;
 - (c) Technical assistance and training;
 - (d) Catalytic role of the United Nations Environment Programme;

- (e) Weather modification;
 - (f) Environmental law.
16. Resolutions of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly of relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme.
 - 16A. Criteria governing multilateral financing of housing and human settlements.
 17. Provisional agenda, date and place of the fifth session of the Governing Council.
 18. Other business.
 19. Report of the Governing Council to the General Assembly.
 20. Closure of the session.

Organization of work

13. At its 41st meeting, the Governing Council considered the organization of the work of the session in the light of the suggestions made by the secretariat in the annotations to the provisional agenda and of the time-table of meetings suggested by the Executive Director. It was agreed that items 5 (a) and (b) and 6 should be considered together in the context of a general debate.

14. At the same meeting, the Governing Council decided to establish two sessional committees and to allocate agenda items to them as follows:

Sessional Committee I: agenda items 7 and 15 (c), (d), (e) and (f);

Sessional Committee II: agenda items 11 and 9 (a) and (b).

Mr. Rio Rachwartono (Indonesia) and Mrs. Lessedjina Kiaba Lema (Zaire), Vice-Presidents, were appointed Chairmen of Sessional Committees I and II, respectively.

Work of the Committees

15. Committee I held 12 meetings from 1 to 12 April 1976. At the 1st meeting, it elected Mr. Jack Thompson (United States of America) as Rapporteur, and decided to consider items 7 (a), 7 (b) and 7 (c) together, beginning with a review of general aspects of the three-level programmatic process, during which item 15 (d) would be considered. The Committee agreed that it would then proceed to a sector-by-sector discussion, during which the other parts of item 15 allocated to the Committee would be discussed in conjunction with the programme areas to which they related. The text of the Committee's report has been incorporated in chapter III below.

16. Committee II held eight meetings from 31 March to 8 April 1976. At the 1st meeting, it elected Miss Naima Al-Shayji (Kuwait) as Rapporteur, and decided to consider the subjects before it in the following order:

- (a) Report on the implementation of the Fund programme in 1975;
- (b) Review and approval of the over-all level of Fund programme activities for 1976-1977;
- (c) Procedural and regulatory matters;
- (d) Audited 1974 accounts;
- (e) Revised estimates for programme and programme support costs, 1976-1977;
- (f) Review of the Fund programme for 1976-1977 and of the medium-term plan for the period 1976-1979;
- (g) Provisional general procedures governing the operations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;
- (h) Budget report on the Foundation, 1975-1977.

The text of the Committee's report has been incorporated in chapters V and VII below.

CHAPTER II

GENERAL DEBATE

17. In discussing agenda items 5 (a) and (b) and 6, the Council had before it the following documents: introductory report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC/57), state of the environment 1976 (UNEP/GC/58) and report of the Environment Co-ordination Board (UNEP/GC/59).

18. In an introductory statement (UNEP/GC/L.36) at the Council's 41st meeting, the Executive Director said that, following the four years of planning since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was held at Stockholm, and with a new management team, UNEP was entering another phase - a phase of practical achievement. That advance was due in large measure to the efforts of his predecessor as Executive Director, Mr. Maurice F. Strong, who had taken the lead in shaping the secretariat and evolving the principles which guided its activities. In his task, Mr. Strong had received notable support from the former Assistant Executive Directors of UNEP in charge of the Bureau of the Programme and the Bureau of the Environment Fund and Management, Mr. Robert Frosch and Mr. Paul Berthoud.

19. Three specific institutional issues, apart from the institutional arrangements for UNEP itself, which the Governing Council would consider under item 13 of its agenda, were of particular importance to UNEP. The success of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation depended on the willingness of Governments to support it with funds; with few exceptions, however, that willingness had not been conspicuous to date. Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, to be held at Vancouver in May and June 1976, would provide a new basis for international co-operation and national action relating to human settlements. The Governing Council would also be called upon to review the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Desertification, for which the General Assembly had designated it as the preparatory body.

20. Co-ordination within the United Nations system played a crucial role in UNEP's programmatic process. At Level One, ^{4/} UNEP relied on analyses of current activities carried out by agencies and other United Nations bodies. At Levels Two and Three their co-operation was needed, respectively, in formulating and in implementing the programme. The Environment Co-ordination Board played a key role in that dialogue. Joint programming had begun with some agencies and would be extended to others in the near future. For the design and implementation of the programme, it was also important for UNEP to have an effective regional presence, and mechanisms had been established to that end. Governments, intergovernmental groupings and non-governmental organizations had a vital

^{4/} For definitions of the three programme levels, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/10025), annex I, Governing Council decision 20 (III), sect. I, of 2 May 1975.

co-ordinating and co-operative role to play. The programmatic process depended on broad public support for the objectives of UNEP and on public participation in solving environmental problems. Insufficient progress had been made in that respect, and priority might therefore be given to promoting a wider recognition of environmental issues, particularly through a UNEP publications programme and a new quarterly journal.

21. More concerted effort was needed by the secretariat and Governments in a number of areas. Where the components of Earthwatch were concerned, reasonable progress had been achieved in the development of GEMS, although the difficulties had been somewhat underestimated; the development of IRS was currently held back by the lack of response from Governments requested to provide sources of information that could form part of the network; within its outer limits programme, UNEP was co-operating with WMO and the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) on an international programme to stimulate research on and monitoring of possible threats to the ozone layer from man-made chemicals, about which serious concern had been expressed. While difficulties within UNEP were partly responsible for the lack of progress in bringing the technical assistance clearing-house into full operation, there had not been enough encouragement from Governments that should be in a position to offer technical assistance in environmental matters. Regarding the problems of spreading deserts and the destruction of tropical forest cover, there was no tangible evidence that the destructive processes were even being slowed. However, progress in that respect could be hoped for as a result of the United Nations Conference on Desertification and the joint programme of UNEP and FAO on forest cover. It was to be hoped that the Council would again record its concern that environmental considerations should receive due recognition at the reconvened Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. Finally, it should be noted that despite international conventions, government action and voluntary group efforts, the threat to the world's wildlife was mounting inexorably.

22. Satisfactory progress had been achieved in a number of areas, including the development of basic concepts concerning the relationship between environment and development, and for environmentally sound technologies. Regarding the former, three important interim reports were before the Governing Council (UNEP/GC/76, UNEP/GC/79 and UNEP/GC/80), while where the latter was concerned, preparations were under way, in co-operation with the regional commissions, to select institutions for research and development and to establish pilot projects to test new technologies. The programme with UNESCO for environmental education had advanced, and the guidelines formulated at the Belgrade International Workshop in October 1976 would be tested with a view to providing an input to a ministerial-level conference to be held in 1977. A centre had been established at Madrid, for Spanish-speaking peoples, to promote environmental sciences generally and specialist training in particular. The industry programme had also progressed, with the holding of a seminar on the aluminium industry. ^{5/} Two more seminars would be held in 1976 on the automobile industry and the environmentally harmful effects of the use of fertilizers, pesticides, etc., in agriculture.

^{5/} For the report of the seminar, see UNEP/GC(IV)/INF.4.

23. Among the matters which particularly merited the attention of the Governing Council was the case made in the review of the status of the programme (UNEP/GC/61) for regrouping some current Fund programme activities of UNEP into a coherent programme showing how food production could be increased on a sustainable basis, without damage to the environment. The Executive Director emphasized the central role of FAO in relation to food. He also stressed the desirability of UNEP placing greater emphasis on questions of land use and on research to encourage more industries to substitute renewable resources in the production process. More attention should be given to encouraging richer countries to apply ecodevelopment principles in planning, through the adoption of no-waste technologies and more modest levels of resource use.

24. Turning to the Fund of UNEP, the Executive Director pointed out that there were now better balances in the Fund programme, in terms of geography, in the use of members of the United Nations system and in the ratio of small to large projects. The recommended level of Fund programme activities, \$34 million for 1976 and \$35.7 million for 1977, was within the \$82 million approved by the Governing Council for the years 1975-1977 and in line with the medium-term plan approved for 1976-1979. Pledges made, and recorded on the Fund books as resources, were adequate to cover those projected costs.

25. In 1975, however, payments had lagged far behind pledges, while, in line with the instructions of the Governing Council, requirements had significantly accelerated. Information recently received from the largest contributor indicated the likelihood of a serious shortfall in contributions to be paid against the pledge during the period covered by the pledge.

26. For the years 1973-1977, 14 contributors had pledged the equivalent of \$9.1 million in non-convertible currencies. While most of those contributions appeared at present to be readily usable, that could not yet be said of the largest one. However, the secretariat had initiated special efforts to ensure that the contribution would be used in such a way as to maintain a balance in the nature of the activities supported by the Fund.

27. Describing the current situation as "completely unsatisfactory", the Executive Director indicated that of the almost \$109 million pledged through 1977, only \$41.2 million had so far been paid, which was far below the needs of UNEP. As a result, it had been impossible to sign project documents for more than a few of the 42 projects approved in principle or ready for approval at the beginning of 1976. If the resource situation of the Fund did not improve markedly, it would not be possible to approve the remaining projects or initiate any new activities. He therefore appealed to Governments to pay rapidly the balance of \$66 million between now and the end of 1977.

28. In the future evolution of its work, UNEP would be guided by the following principles:

- (a) The starting point must be to meet basic human needs;
- (b) The purpose of development should be to satisfy those needs with the least adverse impact on resources and the environment at large;
- (c) The process of development itself could and should improve the environment from the viewpoint of man's needs;

(d) UNEP should identify the outer limits to the disturbance of the biosphere, in order to ensure that the processes of development did not transgress them;

(e) Through Earthwatch, UNEP must monitor the impact of development processes in order to predict important short-term and long-term environmental trends thus helping decision-makers ensure that the carrying capacity of the environment would not be violated;

(f) UNEP should promote alternative patterns of development and life-styles in both rich and poor countries;

(g) Governments, collectively and individually, had a responsibility to ensure proper management of the environment and to secure public support for that goal through education, training and information.

29. Adherence by UNEP to those principles would, however, depend upon support from Governments. The discussions at the Stockholm Conference and at past sessions of the Governing Council, as well as the reception given to the Cocoyoc Declaration (A/C.2/292), suggested that Governments were aware of the need to give due recognition to the environment in all international forums. The Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974) also recognized that while each State attached importance to controlling the exploitation and development of the national resources within its jurisdiction, efforts should be made to refrain from damaging natural resources and to protect and reconstitute them. It was therefore somewhat inconsistent that the environment should have received so little attention at the seventh special session of the General Assembly and was hardly recognized in resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation.

30. UNEP also looked to Governments for direct support, not only financial, but, for example, through the provision of enough qualified experts and prompt and full responses to requests by UNEP for technical information.

31. Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the Executive Director stated that the Governing Council was meant to deal with all environmental activities undertaken by the United Nations system, and the programme it approved was valid for the entire system. While the response from United Nations agencies, in the Environment Co-ordination Board and in numerous bilateral contacts had been increasingly encouraging, he intended to strengthen further the close alliance between UNEP and the rest of the system. In view of the now strictly limited resources of the Fund, UNEP would, however, be looking more to the agencies to implement the programme with only modest assistance from the Fund, or in many cases with no Fund involvement whatsoever.

32. To illustrate the impressive results already achieved by UNEP in its short life, the Executive Director mentioned four examples: the Mediterranean programme, the successful development of which was striking evidence that, given the political will, environmental problems could be overcome even in areas as politically sensitive as the Mediterranean; the United Nations Conference on Desertification, in the preparation for which United Nations bodies and Governments were jointly contributing both financially and substantively, and

which thus provided a good example of the catalytic and co-ordinating role of UNEP; GEMS, whose progress towards becoming a comprehensive and coherent monitoring programme could only have been achieved through the co-operation of all parties; and the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Natural Resources Shared by Two or More States, which, at its first session, had reached tentative agreement on several important general principles and guidelines, thanks to the spirit of co-operation and accommodation shown by delegations and the pragmatic approach they had adopted in their work.

33. During the general debate, which took place at the Council's 42nd to 45th meetings on 31 March and 1 April 1976, delegations expressed their gratitude to the people and Government of Kenya for their warm reception and the excellent facilities which had been placed at their disposal. They also paid tribute to the first Executive Director, Mr. Maurice F. Strong, for his dedication to the environmental cause and his inspired leadership of UNEP, and welcomed Mr. Tolba as his successor.

34. It was generally felt that the increasing urgency of environmental problems made it imperative for the international community to intensify its search for their solution, and to design and implement efficient programmes to that end. A number of delegations reported on measures recently adopted in their countries in the legislative, administrative, institutional and scientific fields to ensure the protection and improvement of the environment, and several pointed out that the direct help or guidance of UNEP had been most valuable in that respect.

35. A number of delegations pointed out that international co-operation for environmental protection was a fundamental element in the improvement of international relations. UNEP had an important role to play in the establishment of a stable and peaceful world in which a sound and humane environment on the one hand, and progress and development on the other, were twin aspects of the effort in which the whole of mankind must engage in order to improve the quality of life for all people. Several speakers stressed the need for increased co-operation between developed and developing countries, and between developing countries themselves, particularly within regions.

36. A number of delegations stressed that the détente in international relations achieved as a result of the successful conclusion of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe facilitated the improvement of the political climate in Europe and in the world at large and the strengthening of credibility between States; and opened new possibilities for broadening international co-operation regarding the protection of the environment. The delegations felt that the convening of an all-European congress or intergovernmental conference on co-operation in the field of the environment could be of major significance.

37. Some delegations pointed out that critical environmental breakthroughs could only be achieved through the political will of Governments, expressed both at the national and the international levels. Several representatives emphasized that détente, peace and disarmament were fundamental prerequisites for the establishment of an effective system of international co-operation for the improvement of the human environment. One delegation cautioned against the tendency to consider environmental problems exclusively as an ecodevelopment issue: just economic relations, an equitable distribution of world resources, individual and collective self-reliance of countries and the basic socio-economic structures of States were also significant factors in the achievement of an

environmentally sound social, economic, cultural and political development. Several speakers also said that the end of the nuclear and conventional arms race and the adoption of measures to prevent environmental warfare were pre-conditions for the establishment of a safe environment for mankind as a whole. One delegation stated that the main causes of pollution and damage to the human environment were the colonialist and imperialist policies of exploitation and plunder.

38. It was generally felt that, despite some shortcomings, UNEP had achieved considerable progress in the past year. Most delegations recognized that UNEP had succeeded in overcoming the initial difficulties which it had met during its formative stage and had reached a commendable level of efficiency. Some representatives stated that it had become particularly important to strengthen the programme since it was now entering a phase of practical implementation.

39. While commending the quality and comprehensiveness of the documentation before them, delegations generally felt that its volume should be reduced not only for the sake of clarity and manageability, but also to allow the secretariat to concentrate on the more important tasks of programme preparation and implementation. While several delegations stressed the improved performance of the secretariat in preparing and distributing the documents for the session and in keeping Governments and permanent missions regularly informed of its activities, a number of speakers urged UNEP to make further efforts in the area of communications with Governments, where they felt there was still room for considerable improvement. Conversely, some delegations stated that Governments should also endeavour to facilitate UNEP's task in that respect, particularly by responding fully and promptly to requests for information from the secretariat.

40. A number of delegations said that the introductory report and statement of the Executive Director adequately reflected those areas of the programme where satisfactory progress had been achieved, as well as those where additional efforts were needed. There was also general agreement that the state of the environment report accurately and realistically presented the most urgent environmental issues on which the international community in general and UNEP in particular should focus their attention. One delegation, however, felt that the report should have a clearer policy orientation to allow Governments to make the necessary adjustments in their environmental programmes.

41. Most speakers endorsed the proposal of the Executive Director regarding the preparation every five years of a more substantive and detailed state of the environment report, although two delegations felt that it would be better if it were prepared every three years. The idea of a brief factual annual report highlighting only those issues of international significance which had emerged or changed significantly in the previous year was also generally endorsed.

42. While some delegations agreed with the Executive Director that the balance of the programme itself had been improved, one delegation stated that UNEP should seek to have a cadre of personnel reflecting not only equitable geographical distribution but also a fair balance between developed and developing countries.

43. Delegations were agreed that it would be premature at the present stage to modify the existing institutional arrangements of UNEP which, in so far as could be judged given the relatively short time for which UNEP had been in existence, had on the whole proved satisfactory. Most delegations said that the present system of annual meetings of the Governing Council should be maintained. Representatives were generally of the view that the agenda of the Governing Council could be somewhat streamlined, with some items being taken up only in alternate years. One delegation felt that informal consultations might be tending to become more frequent than necessary, since they did not officially commit Governments and did not really lead to a fruitful exchange of ideas.

44. Most speakers also stressed that the unique co-ordinating and catalytic role of UNEP with regard to environmental issues should be preserved and indeed strengthened in any restructuring exercise carried out for the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system as a whole. In that connexion, some delegations stated that the role of UNEP was distinct from that of operational and funding agencies and would be seriously impaired, and the environmental cause gravely endangered, if UNEP were to be merged with other agencies of a fundamentally different nature. One delegation said that UNEP would be able to consolidate its position within the United Nations system and maintain its identity only if it could consolidate its financial position and internal structure. In pointing out that the need felt at Stockholm for a major new focus in the United Nations system for global environmental action still existed and should be preserved, one representative suggested that the Governing Council convey to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, through the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, some general considerations regarding UNEP's role which would assist the Committee in its deliberations.

45. While most speakers emphasized that it would be premature to discuss at the present stage future institutional arrangements for the United Nations system in the field of human settlements, a question which, they felt, was rightfully the province of the Habitat Conference itself, several delegations recognized that human settlements were an important aspect of the human environment and that UNEP would be called upon to play a major role in the field whatever the outcome of the Conference itself. Some delegations cautioned against any attempt to depart from the recommendation of the Stockholm Conference, as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, regarding the primary responsibility of UNEP for the human environment in its entirety, while other delegations said that the establishment of new institutions under the responsibility of UNEP and the assumption by the latter of still other areas of concern might aggravate the scattering of programme resources, increase overhead costs and multiply the risks of duplication and overlapping. One representative said that Governments should see to it that environmental concerns and the specific responsibilities of UNEP were fully taken into account in their policies vis-à-vis other organizations of the United Nations system, particularly when they were called upon to determine the work programmes of those organizations.

46. While many delegations commended the increasingly active role played by the Environment Co-ordination Board in ensuring over-all co-ordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system, some felt that the report of the Board on its fifth session indicated that there was room for further progress in that area. Some delegations felt that it would be useful

for them to be kept better informed about the results of the Board's deliberations. Two delegations pointed out that the role of the Board should be seen as one of programme co-ordination, rather than programming. One delegation especially welcomed the progress made by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Data, while another said the work accomplished by the Board in the field of water was particularly impressive.

47. Several delegations stressed that UNEP should establish closer and more frequent contacts with Governments with a view to involving them more closely in the development and implementation of its programme. Similarly, in the view of many delegations, UNEP would considerably benefit from establishing closer links with national and regional institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, and involving them in its work, not only because of their expertise, but also because to do so might prevent overlapping and duplication of efforts and lead to a strengthening of those institutions.

48. While expressing satisfaction at the development by UNEP of its regional activities and the progressive establishment of the machinery needed to ensure more active collaboration between UNEP and, in particular, resident representatives of UNDP, the regional commissions and the field offices of the specialized agencies, a number of delegations stressed the need for further strengthening those regional structures and for increasing their involvement at the project level. One speaker, however, cautioned that decentralization should not impair the central responsibility of UNEP headquarters with regard to programme planning and implementation, while others suggested that the Latin American regional office of UNEP should be strengthened and that the time had come to decentralize the regional office for Africa.

49. Most speakers were agreed that regional co-ordination could yield particularly fruitful results in areas such as training and education, protection of the marine environment, elaboration of national environmental legislation and regional conventions, management of natural resources and protection of ecosystems. Several speakers stressed the usefulness of regional meetings such as the recent Conference of Latin American States held at Caracas in preparation for the Governing Council session and the forthcoming Asian and Pacific Conference on Environment and Development, where Governments could assess environmental issues facing their region and prepare concerted action programmes to deal with them co-operatively, with the assistance of international organizations such as UNEP. Some delegations also referred in that connexion to regional co-operation within the Economic Commission for Europe, as well as within such organizations as the European Economic Community, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

50. The programmatic approach of UNEP received broad endorsement and it was generally felt that it provided the secretariat with an effective tool for programme preparation and execution. A few delegations, however, thought the approach was becoming somewhat unwieldy and suffered from some internal inconsistencies; in order for the Governing Council to discharge satisfactorily its major policy and co-ordination functions, there should be clear linkages and internal consistency between and among the Level One, Two and Three documents, the presentational format of which should be streamlined both to reduce their bulk and to encourage more meaningful policy-level debate. Most delegations were satisfied with the time-table for the Level One review of

priority subject areas, as approved by the Governing Council at its third session, and felt the information contained in the 1976 Level One document to be comprehensive and useful. One delegation, however, felt that the 1978 target date for extending the programmatic approach to the priority areas not yet covered was distant, and requested the Executive Director to examine the possibility of having the remaining documents ready for the fifth session of the Governing Council rather than the sixth.

51. Several delegations stressed the danger of an excessive fragmentation of the efforts and resources of UNEP over too broad a spectrum of activities, particularly at a time of financial stringency. One delegation said that one of the most important characteristics of UNEP so far had been its ability to react quickly to new situations; if that ability was to be preserved, it was essential that UNEP should not develop a major operational role in addition to its existing functions. Some representatives were of the view that UNEP should reaffirm its basic direction by concentrating Fund resources on a limited number of vitally important environmental activities of a global nature for the benefit of all mankind. Several delegations, however, felt that, although priority might appropriately be given to regional or global projects, small or national projects should not be ruled out as a matter of principle, particularly when they were of a pre-programming nature, were action-oriented or might have value as pilot projects. A number of specific national projects were mentioned in which UNEP was already involved, and requests for assistance were made by several delegations for similar projects which might yield useful results at the regional or the international level.

52. Several delegations referred to the need for UNEP to develop sound project evaluation mechanisms and to keep Governments regularly informed in that regard. In the view of one delegation, the matter warranted further attention by the Governing Council not only to ensure financial support for the activities of UNEP, which could be defended best with a thorough knowledge of ongoing efforts, but also to facilitate substantive participation by Governments in those activities.

53. With regard to the substantive elements of the programme, a number of delegations endorsed the Executive Director's proposal to establish a new priority subject area for "Food", and felt that UNEP could help alleviate some of the acute problems developing countries were experiencing in that area. Several delegations, however, were of the view that the role of UNEP with regard to the food problem should be limited to certain environmental aspects and that overlapping with other United Nations bodies having responsibilities in the area should be avoided. Several delegations endorsed the proposals of the Executive Director regarding the study of the effects of pollution on the ozone layer. Some speakers felt that the concept of the environmental aspects of certain problems should not be stretched so far as to cause an overextension of the limited resources of UNEP. One delegation was of the view that UNEP should promote technological pilot projects, rather than studies whose results were somewhat uncertain.

54. Many delegations expressed satisfaction with the work accomplished by UNEP in the areas of arid and semi-arid lands and water problems, referring in particular to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Desertification and the supportive and co-ordinative activities undertaken by UNEP in connexion with the preparations for the United Nations Water Conference. One speaker, in welcoming

the idea of demonstration projects on waste water disposal, suggested that UNEP publish a list of such projects and explore ways and means of helping developing countries obtain hydrological data.

55. Many delegations stressed the fundamental importance of human settlements and commended the accomplishments of UNEP in that area, particularly regarding its contribution towards the Habitat Conference, regarding which many delegations had very high expectations. One delegation remarked that the drift of people from rural to urban areas was at the crux of one of the most important problems of developing countries. In its view, the provision of basic amenities and opportunities to rural people could at least reduce the drift; thus, the work of UNEP in that regard was particularly significant.

56. In stressing the seriousness of human settlements problems in developing countries, several delegations felt the need to provide international funding for housing programmes by ensuring the rapid development of UNHHSF and maintaining its integrity.

57. Several delegations commended the activities of UNEP in the area of energy, and recommended that it continue to devote its attention to the environmental impact of alternative sources of energy production and use and pursue its efforts to establish in the rural areas of selected developing countries pilot demonstration centres for renewable sources of energy; the results of such experiments might prove a valuable contribution towards the solution of what many developing countries considered to be some of their most pressing environment and development problems. One delegation, however, said that UNEP should, for reasons of both economy and logic, let IAEA deal with the environmental effects of nuclear energy use.

58. A number of delegations stressed the importance of the work UNEP was undertaking in the area of national parks and reserves and endangered species of wildlife. One delegation said that the consolidation and management of existing national parks should be given high priority and that countries, particularly in Africa and Latin America, which had great potential for the establishment of such parks and reserves should be granted assistance to that end by international agencies: wildlife was a resource which had economic, aesthetic and cultural value, and genetic resources were the common heritage of mankind. Another representative suggested that UNEP might contribute to the elaboration of a code of tourism.

59. A number of delegations felt that the UNEP industry programme had been most useful, and looked forward to the other seminars to be organized under it. One delegation, however, pointed out that those activities were of interest not only to developed but also to developing countries; UNEP should consider holding similar seminars in developing countries to discuss the latter's industrial and environmental problems. One representative regretted that no participants from developing countries had been invited to the seminar on the aluminium industry. Another recommended that trade union representatives be invited to participate along with Governments and industry representatives.

60. The large majority of delegations stressed the fundamental importance of the protection of the marine environment and pointed out that the Mediterranean programme was an excellent example of an integrated programme drawing together the resources of countries and of the international organizations into a

cohesive effort for the practical improvement of the marine environment. The recently signed Barcelona Convention 6/ was striking evidence, as the Executive Director had said in his introductory statement, that given the political will, environmental problems could be overcome even in an area as politically sensitive as the Mediterranean. Several delegations stated that the Mediterranean project provided an excellent model for launching similar programmes in other regional bodies of water such as the Caribbean Sea, the west African coast and the Persian Gulf. Some speakers recalled that the development of such a programme for the Caribbean Sea had been endorsed by the Governing Council at its third session and that the Caracas conference of Latin American States had called for immediate action by UNEP in that matter; moreover, the Economic Commission for Latin America was ready to provide its full support for the implementation of that programme. One delegation pointed out that UNEP should take no action which might impede the delicate negotiations currently under way at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

61. Several delegations stressed the very useful role that UNEP could and had begun to play in the field of environmental law. A number of representatives commended the work accomplished by the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Natural Resources Shared by Two or More States, which, in the view of one representative, would be an important contribution towards the development of environmental law currently being undertaken in various international forums. The same speaker also endorsed the Executive Director's proposal to convene a meeting of legal experts and scholars in 1976 to prepare preliminary draft articles on the responsibility of States and compensation for environmental damage, an area which required the urgent attention of the international community. Several representatives referred to the fact that the preparation and adoption of environmental conventions provided a particularly fruitful area for regional co-operation. Another representative said it was important for all countries to ratify or accede to existing environmental conventions; UNEP should actively promote that process and take the initiative in preparing new conventions and revising old ones.

62. Delegations were generally agreed that environmentally sound development should be the goal of all development assistance activities of the United Nations system, and that UNEP was able to and should make a major contribution to the attainment of that objective. A number of representatives said that ecodevelopment, as a useful planning method to achieve environmentally sound development, should be endorsed by all countries, developed as well as developing. Development at the regional and local levels should be consistent with the potential of the areas involved, due attention being given to the rational use of natural resources and to the application of technological styles and institutional frameworks which respected natural ecosystems and local social and cultural patterns. One delegation suggested that UNEP initiate the establishment of a network for co-operation between institutions interested in exchanging information and experience on ecodevelopment.

6/ Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, done at Barcelona on 16 February 1976.

63. Several delegations also endorsed the concept of environmental management, which, they felt, could contribute to an appropriate integration of environmental considerations at all levels of development planning.

64. Most delegations were agreed that, while the relationship between environment and development should be further explored, the evolution of the activities of UNEP should be shaped by the fundamental principle that there was no dichotomy between the two, since environment was in fact an integral component of development. Some delegations stressed that under-development and poverty were the main causes of environmental degradation in many countries of the world and for the majority of its people, and that the programme of UNEP should reflect those fundamental concerns. Emphasis was placed on the importance of the integrated concept of environment and development, which was defined as including ecodevelopment, resource use, environmental management and appropriate technology.

65. Several delegations stressed that the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI)) should be the framework within which UNEP should strive for a more equitable and rational use of the world's common resources and provide the basic philosophy which it must reflect and reinforce in its programme. One delegation stated that conversely, in the implementation of that philosophy, due consideration should be given to such fundamental elements of the environment programme as those relating to a more equitable and economical distribution and management of the planet's resources.

66. Several delegations mentioned that the transfer of low-waste and environmentally sound technologies to the less developed countries was an important issue to which more attention should be paid. One speaker stressed that efforts should be made to adapt technologies to suit local requirements, in order to avoid excessive disruption of traditional socio-economic patterns and waste of local resources.

67. Some delegations also felt that UNEP should devote increasing attention to natural disasters, which struck many countries every year with tragic consequences for their population, economy and environment. One delegation expressed the view that the subject was not dealt with in sufficient detail in the Executive Director's report (UNEP/GC/61) and that the corresponding Fund allocation appeared rather meagre in view of the importance of the problem.

68. A number of delegations stressed the importance of the functional tasks of the programme. Earthwatch, in their view, was the force which could pull together the many disparate elements of the programme, provide an understanding of the most significant environmental indicators and enable Governments to review the world's environmental priorities regularly so as to focus the energies of UNEP where they were most needed. One delegation felt that Earthwatch should be accelerated and its components better co-ordinated. Some delegations emphasized the great potential of IRS as a tool for information generation and dissemination, which was particularly valuable for developing countries, while in the view of two delegations GEMS could help significantly in the monitoring and measurement of long-range transportation of atmospheric pollution, particularly acid precipitation, with a view to intensifying international co-operation to mitigate it. One delegation, stressing the potential of the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC) for assessing, collecting and disseminating valuable scientific information, welcomed its inclusion in the Earthwatch system.

69. Many delegations stressed the importance they attached to environmental education and training, and several reported on the positive developments which had recently taken place in their countries in that area. It was generally agreed that environmental education at all levels and the training of environmental specialists and managers were fields in which UNEP could provide particularly fruitful technical assistance, especially to developing countries. A number of delegations commended the UNEP/UNESCO programme on environmental education, and several speakers also referred favourably to the establishment in Spain, under the auspices of UNEP, of a centre for environmental education for Spanish-speaking peoples.

70. Many delegations expressed serious concern that payments to the Environment Fund had lagged considerably behind pledges at a time when, in line with the Governing Council's instructions, financial requirements had considerably increased. Several delegations stated that every effort should be made to allow UNEP to maintain its present programming level and noted that it would be tragic if the programme, which had been built with such difficulty, were to slow down as a result of the financial troubles which it was experiencing. In their view, any measures which might have to be taken by UNEP should aim at minimal cutbacks in ongoing programme activities. One delegation stated that if cutbacks had to be effected as a result of the financial difficulties, they should not affect projects of particular interest to those countries which had scrupulously fulfilled their commitments, large or small, to the Fund.

71. Several delegations stated, however, that the Executive Director should exercise the utmost care in the selection of individual projects, due consideration being given to the need to concentrate the funds available to UNEP primarily on projects of a global nature falling within the priority areas of the programme. In their view, there was need to establish a close linkage between the programme and the capacity of UNEP to carry it out. In recommending such a selective approach, one representative drew attention to the fact that unless countries were consulted from the outset in the development of programme activities, there was real danger of duplication at the national level or of taking on overly ambitious projects which would make minimal contributions to resolving problems.

72. Some delegations referred to the economic and financial problems facing a number of countries, including some of the most important contributors to the Fund: it was pointed out that those problems had caused some national treasuries and legislations to take a harder look at expenditures, both domestic and international, and that the relatively large year-to-year carry-over of unexpended resources during the formative period of UNEP had made it difficult to defend the programme to national financial authorities.

73. While recognizing that it was difficult for Governments to commit themselves to ongoing financial support for UNEP until the review of the institutional arrangements of the United Nations system was completed, another delegation deplored the fact that UNEP did not seem to be receiving from Governments the measure of support which it might rightly have expected, especially since it had in the past year begun to perform in many ways in the manner and at the level which had been hoped for.

74. Two delegations announced that their Governments would double their contributions to the Fund, and another said its Government would make a nominal contribution to it. A few other speakers assured the Executive Director that their Governments would fulfil their pledges for the five-year period but could not make firm commitments beyond it.

75. Some delegations felt it was incumbent upon Governments to provide the financial resources which they had pledged and on the basis of which the Executive Director had developed the programme, as authorized by the Governing Council at previous sessions. Moreover, there were still many countries which had made no contributions to the Fund or whose contributions were not at a level commensurate with their financial capacity. Governments should make every possible effort to ensure that the environment programme would receive the financial support which it deserved, needed and could rightfully expect in order to carry out the important responsibilities with which it had been entrusted by the international community.

76. The representative of IAEA described a number of ongoing activities of his agency which related directly to environmental questions. While that work had been going on for many years, the Stockholm Conference and the establishment of UNEP had given it much greater impetus. He then referred briefly to areas in which IAEA and UNEP were currently co-operating, and pointed out that one important field for future collaboration between the two would be the increasing use of nuclear techniques in studies of ordinary pollution problems and in water resources management. The representative of WMO highlighted some of the main fields in which WMO was contributing to the implementation of the environment programme, in particular with regard to GEMS, the development of a monitoring system for marine pollution, the study of climatic changes arising from man's activities (with particular emphasis on the ozone depletion problem), natural disasters, desertification and the climatological aspects of the planning of human settlements.

77. The representative of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) expressed the hope that, in conformity with the wish expressed by the OAU Council of Ministers, the already close relationship existing between UNEP and OAU would be further strengthened and find its expression in concrete regional programmes. For OAU, the priority areas for action by UNEP in Africa were problems of desertification and arid zones, in particular those of the Sudano-Sahelian belt; human settlements; education, training and public information; and the relationship between environment and development.

Action by the Governing Council

78. At its 59th meeting, on 14 April 1976, the Governing Council considered a draft decision suggested by the President on programme policy and implementation.

79. The representative of Brazil said his delegation viewed with concern the request made of the Executive Director in section III, paragraph 3, of the decision, to contact bilateral and multilateral donors. The Executive Director's terms of reference in so acting would be vague and tentative, and an incautious and premature approach might impair the smooth functioning of delicate financial procedures vital to the developing countries. His delegation might take the matter up again at a future session, but meanwhile the Executive Director would be well advised to refrain from the action requested. His delegation would abstain in the event of a vote on the paragraph in question.

80. The representative of Venezuela, referring to section I, paragraph 7, of the decision, stated that in the final report of the Latin American meeting held at Caracas in preparation for the present session, stress had been laid on the need to decentralize and regionalize the activities of UNEP, and to strengthen the capacity of the regional office in Latin America to carry out regional, subregional and local programmes. In section III, paragraph 3, he proposed the deletion of the word "fully".

81. The draft decision, as orally amended by the representative of Venezuela, was adopted without a vote (decision 47 (IV)). 7/

7/ For the text of the decision, see annex I below.

CHAPTER III

PROGRAMME MATTERS

A. Introduction and general debate

82. Agenda items 7 and 15 (c), (d), (e) and (f) were referred to Sessional Committee I. The Committee had before it the following documents: review of the environmental situation and of activities relating to the environment programme (UNEP/GC/60); status of the programme (UNEP/GC/61 and Corr.1 and Add.1, Add.2 and Corr.2 and 2, and Add.3); proposed Fund programme activities 1976-1977 (UNEP/GC/62 and Corr.1); technical assistance and training (UNEP/GC/81); and catalytic role of UNEP (UNEP/GC/82). For an account of the organization of the Committee's work, see paragraph 15 above.

83. In a general introduction, the Special Adviser to the Executive Director for Programme Matters suggested that, in its general discussion, the Committee might focus on topics such as the development and presentation of the programmatic approach, the catalytic role of UNEP, the general balance of the programme and its concentration on a limited number of areas.

84. Introducing item 7 (c), the Acting Deputy Executive Director explained that the proposed level of Fund programme activities for 1976 (\$34 million) and 1977 (\$35.7 million) was somewhat higher than agreed to at the third session of the Governing Council. The change was due to some slippage in the actual rate of expenditure during 1975, and the total of \$82 million approved in 1975 for Fund programme activities in 1975, 1976 and 1977 was not affected. Over-all, therefore, the proposals were consistent with those agreed to at the last session.

85. Activities already under way and proposals for future Fund programme activities were more mature and better prepared than previously: increasingly, the Fund of UNEP was helping to implement the agreed programme, rather than merely responding to the initiatives of others. Document UNEP/GC/62 showed that the principle of concentration was being followed and that where support had been given to small projects, it now served the purposes of the programme more effectively than had sometimes been the case in the past.

86. In the general discussion which followed, most speakers welcomed the progress made since the third session of the Governing Council. Though there had, of course, been no instant improvement in the environment, several delegations gave examples of national developments such as the framing of environmental legislation, which showed that the influence of UNEP was being felt increasingly and that there was a growing appreciation of the close relationship between environment and development. However, one delegation said UNEP needed to become better known if it was to gain public support.

87. The value of the three-level programmatic process as a means of shaping and giving effect to the programme was broadly endorsed. However, a number of delegations found that the relevant documents failed to convey effectively

the interrelationship between the different levels, and one delegation questioned whether UNEP was taking full advantage of the process.

88. In relation to the Level One document (UNEP/GC/60), some delegations offered criticisms and suggestions about the presentation of information, especially about the diagrams, which some found confusing. Several delegations said the action plans for conservation and oceans were too vague and broad to be of much practical value.

89. Some delegations referred to the proposals for the completion of the Level One exercise (UNEP/GC/60, para. 16). Several delegations felt that the remaining Level One reviews should not be rescheduled over two years; while other speakers did agree with the Executive Director on that point, there were various suggestions as to which subjects should be treated in 1977 and which in 1978. The timing of the reviews of human settlements and environmental education was mentioned in relation to the Habitat Conference and the proposed conference on environmental education in 1977.

90. In relation to the Level Two document (UNEP/GC/61 and Corr.1 and Add.1, Add.2 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.3), nearly all delegations reaffirmed the importance of the principle of concentration. Though a number of delegations thought the principle was already satisfactorily in evidence in the programme, and one affirmed that the programme was not spread too thin, several speakers urged a still greater concentration and said that the document should show better how concentration was being applied, perhaps by building programmes based upon concentration areas rather than on the priority subject areas and functional tasks. Two delegations suggested that at each session the Governing Council might select certain concentration areas for attention at the following session, thus ensuring a more detailed review and enabling delegations to prepare themselves more thoroughly.

91. Some delegations linked their remarks about concentration to their view that UNEP should not lose sight of the need for its programme to be uniquely environmental, and should not trespass into territory that was principally the purview of others. Several speakers expressed concern that the Executive Director was proposing new programmes in food and social outer limits.

92. Though the broad shape of the programme received general endorsement, a number of speakers considered that the needs of developing countries should receive special attention. Developing countries suffered from a shortage of expertise and trained personnel, and a priority for UNEP should be to correct that situation. UNEP could assist developing countries by encouraging the adoption of environmentally sound alternatives in such fields as pest control and energy, and illustrating the costs and benefits of such alternatives; by giving advice on the development of an interdisciplinary approach to the environment; and by relating research and training more specifically to the particular needs of the developing countries, using in so doing the institutions, skills and traditional knowledge of those countries, and thus making developing countries increasingly self-reliant in dealing with environmental problems.

93. One speaker urged that demonstration projects, which were such an important aspect of the programme, should be of a kind that the lessons derived from them could be easily applied elsewhere. The same speaker thought a review

by the secretariat of the achievements of programme activity centres would be timely.

94. Another speaker noted that the programme was based on the very acceptable underlying philosophy that the satisfaction of man's needs and the improvement of the quality of life were paramount. Those aims could be met in three ways: by ensuring that the changes brought about by the development process were environmentally sound, by conserving the environment and by rehabilitating what had been lost. The programme covered the first two areas well, and he hoped that, following the United Nations Conference on Desertification, the third would receive more prominence in the programme.

95. A number of speakers referred specifically to certain aspects of the programme to which they attached special importance. These included: environmental training, environmental education, Earthwatch (GEMS, IRS, outer limits), non-conventional energy resources, protection of water and soil from pollution, land use, the marine environment including the Mediterranean, wildlife conservation and national parks, environmental impact of man-made ecosystems, human health, the particular environmental problems of the tropical countries, notably threats to tropical forests and desertification, environmentally sound technologies, ecodevelopment and the environment/development relationship - which many developing country speakers felt should be at the core of the programme.

96. Concentration of Level Three (UNEP/GC/62 and Corr.1) was urged by a number of delegations, which felt there were still too many projects and too few large ones, though the fact that the Fund programme was increasingly the creation of UNEP itself, rather than the sum of reactions to the initiatives of others, was welcomed. One delegation said the current climate of financial stringency made it more important to select priorities with care, and that those projects to which commitments had already been made should have priority. Several other speakers urged that the programme must be realistic and related to the resource position. However, it was pointed out that the priorities were already agreed, based on an expectation that funds would be available; the answer was not to cut the programme, but for those countries which had pledged contributions to pay them.

97. Many delegations were critical of the lack of information from the secretariat on plans for, and the outcome of, projects. Developing countries, especially, needed the results if they were to cope with the pressing problems they faced.

98. Several delegations said the balance between global, regional and national projects was broadly acceptable, and the balance between the needs of developed and developing countries was also sound. Some countries pointed out that UNEP should continue to support national projects, which frequently served regional and wider purposes.

99. The catalytic role of UNEP received widespread support, though one speaker considered that the concept needed sharper definition than it received in the Executive Director's report (UNEP/GC/82). The catalytic role was the means by which the specialized agencies were enabled to identify the part they should play in implementing the environment programme and ways in which their own

programmes could reflect environmental considerations. Some delegations said that the effectiveness of the catalytic role was, however, largely determined by the availability of funds.

100. Nearly all delegations considered the documentation relating to Levels One, Two and Three (including the addenda) to be excessive. A number of countries pointed out that they had a special problem in digesting such bulky documentation at short notice, since they lacked the personnel to analyse the documents as fully as they deserved; unless the reports were of a kind which developing countries could handle easily, the programme might become too élitist in outlook. Several Latin American delegations said reports had arrived late, and suggested that that might be avoided next year if the documents were distributed from the UNEP regional office in Mexico. One African representative said his Government had received some documents late and in the wrong language.

101. The quality of the documentation was also criticized. Many speakers found it difficult to relate one document to another; several delegations also thought some of the documents were internally inconsistent. The apparent unevenness in the presentation of information was commented upon. Some speakers found it difficult to see how proposals, including resource allocations, related to objectives; terms like "high priority" were over-used and thereby lost their impact and meaning, and the priorities and thrust of the programme failed to come through. Several speakers stated that the proper role of the Governing Council should be to make policy decisions rather than to consider individual projects, and the documentation should be prepared accordingly.

102. Most speakers asked that in future documents be shorter, more concise, and, if possible, more informative. Among the specific suggestions made were the following:

(a) The reports on each level should be synthesized into one document;

(b) The substance of arguments should be kept separate from related information of an administrative nature.

(c) The secretariat might initiate a study of how to put the presentation of the documents on a more methodical basis, so that the Governing Council could review annually what had been achieved and what was planned under the objectives of each concentration area. Charts, matrixes and graphs, if appropriately used, would improve understanding;

(d) Delegations should form a small working party, assisted perhaps by the secretariat, to advise the Executive Director on the format of the three programme level documents.

The latter proposal received support from a number of delegations.

103. The representative of UNESCO, speaking on behalf of the United Nations specialized agencies and organizations represented in the Committee, said that the close co-operation with the agencies concerned which had been developed for the preparation of the Level One document constituted significant progress and should be continued. Regarding the catalytic role of UNEP, he stressed that the United Nations system welcomed UNEP as a co-ordinating and stimulating mechanism

for environmental programmes and activities within the system, but that if that function was to be exercised effectively, the involvement of the Environment Fund was the key factor. That in turn implied a process of joint programming. While some progress had been made in that respect, and while on their side many agencies were now referring to co-operative action with UNEP in their programming by objectives, much remained to be done; the role of interagency consultations and of the Environment Co-ordination Board needed reinforcement in that regard.

104. The Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council the draft decisions suggested by the Chairman on the review of the environmental situation and of activities relating to the environment programme and on the catalytic role of UNEP.

Action by the Governing Council

105. At its 57th meeting, on 13 April 1976, the Council adopted by consensus the two draft decisions recommended by Sessional Committee I (decisions 48 (IV) and 49 (IV)). 8/

B. Programme and Fund programme activities

1. Priority subject areas

(a) Human settlements and human health

(i) Human settlements and habitat

106. All speakers expressed approval of the catalytic and co-ordinating role of UNEP in relation to human settlements, and generally endorsed the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC/61, paras. 27-46); one indicated that, in his country, pre-Habitat preparations and public discussions had greatly increased awareness of human settlements issues amongst the public and regional and local planners. He viewed human settlements issues as an integral part of the development process.

107. Because of the lengthy debate on human settlements and habitat in plenary, some delegations felt that the Executive Director's report should be endorsed in so far as it was consistent with that debate. Several other countries indicated that they considered several issues not to have been covered, in particular the importance of the human element in human settlements and the need to strengthen the environmental dimension. Several delegations felt that, whatever the outcome of the Habitat Conference, UNEP should continue its involvement in the environmental aspects of human settlements and its efforts to develop human settlements programmes.

108. Several delegations expressed their hope that the Conference would do more than consider buildings and architecture, and a number of speakers reiterated their view that both UNEP and Habitat should look at problems surrounding the

8/ For the text of the decisions, see annex I below.

provision of basic human needs and the establishment in all countries of an improved quality of life. One delegation expressed approval of placing more emphasis on environment, but noted that the term had to be interpreted broadly enough to incorporate the human settlements issue, without becoming so broad as to cover all development problems. Several countries underlined the importance of working with and developing local community organizations.

109. One speaker saw the need for a much stronger co-ordination of United Nations human settlements activity and for a clearing-house of information on related activities, for example, the forthcoming Conference on Research in Urban Planning and Quality of Life to be held in Warsaw from 5 to 15 May 1976, under the sponsorship of ECE, which he suggested that a UNEP representative should attend.

110. Several delegations endorsed the approach to human settlements as ecosystems, while warning of the complexity and the difficulty of the exercise; they stressed the importance of first addressing the basic questions of the utility of the concept and its meaning. Several speakers indicated the need to determine first the criteria for the provision of basic human needs and improved quality of life, taking into account biological, economic, social and spiritual factors and their interaction. Attention was drawn to the need to cover particular subsystems of human settlements, for example, green areas and sewage treatment, and their effect on human welfare and health; it was suggested that an interdisciplinary group of experts should assist in the development of the concept.

111. Several delegations expressed apprehension that human settlements activity might concentrate on the problems of large cities, and indicated that attention should also be given to settlement problems of rural areas and to the relations between large urban agglomerations and the rural areas which served them. Therefore, one speaker stated, the Habitat Conference would be political; the Governing Council should accordingly continue to deal with environmental problems of human settlements, and in particular UNEP should make recommendations about the implications of various styles of urban and rural development. A number of delegations hoped that the issues of the future would be addressed in future projects, particularly in view of the expected needs for housing and provision of human needs in both developed and developing countries in the light of population growth. Other speakers indicated their interest in having UNEP look at the problems of older cities and historic places, particularly with regard to problems of urban renewal, while others referred to the need for marginal settlement and slum pilot projects, especially in developing countries.

112. One delegation suggested that it would be appropriate for UNEP to review its own technical assistance projects and those of the United Nations Centre for Housing, Building and Planning with a view to developing generalizations which could be used as "feedback" into the technical assistance process. The opinion was expressed that, without excluding the necessity to consider the problems of human settlements at the national and regional levels, it was important that the Habitat Conference should develop some general principles on human settlements in relation to the natural environment, for example, the use of arid lands to minimize the quantitative impact of population growth and the consequent increase of built-up areas on fertile land.

113. One delegation mentioned the potential role of human settlements technology in providing alternative materials and building forms to assist areas in recovering from natural disasters and in ameliorating their effects in the future.

Another suggested that UNEP had a strong role to play in assisting and co-ordinating the specialized agencies in work related to natural disasters, and one speaker suggested that a joint project on disasters be undertaken with the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development on typhoon warning systems. The representative of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) noted the Office's interest in prevention measures, as discussed by one speaker. In addition, he indicated that three manuals on the impact of natural disasters on planning, building and human settlements management would soon be available. The manuals, which arose from a joint UNEP/UNDRO project, were mostly relevant to new human settlements and contained guidelines which should allow decision-makers to check quickly whether the necessary precautions from the point of view of natural disaster risks to human settlements had been included in projects submitted for approval. UNDRO also strove to introduce preventive measures in the reconstruction of human settlements destroyed by natural disasters. For Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, UNDRO had prepared a study on the protection of human settlements against natural disasters.

114. Another delegation raised the issue of the working environment and inquired about the progress of information exchange and joint activities with the International Labour Office (ILO). The representative of ILO indicated that ILO/UNEP co-operation was developing well and UNEP was being asked to look especially at the working environment. The UNEP-sponsored industry seminars had addressed some relevant issues. Following a resolution adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 1975, the ILO Governing Body had asked the Director-General to undertake a coherent programme of ILO action with UNEP on the environment. Preparation for joint programming with UNEP was under way. The working environment was a special ecosystem which influenced human health in industrial as well as agricultural pursuits. Employment, development and environment were interrelated. The representative also informed the Committee about the forthcoming international Labour Conference and the Tripartite World Conference on Employment, Income Distribution, Social Progress and the International Division of Labour, at which environmental problems would be discussed.

115. Other representatives stressed the need for UNEP to deal with human settlements problems at the regional level, where human factors such as social organization and culture, as well as differences between developing and developed countries, could be taken more fully into account.

116. One delegation felt that not enough funds had been allocated to human settlements by the Environment Fund, and another said that greater attention should be given to the problem of loss of productive lands owing to the expansion of human settlements and of communications infrastructure.

117. The representative of the United Nations Centre for Housing, Building and Planning gave several examples, including projects on improvement of slums and human settlements technology, illustrating the close co-operation of the Centre with UNEP and UNHHSF, in keeping with the catalytic role of UNEP. He also noted the involvement of the Centre in several documents of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, including the preparation of three reports for the Conference. A report on the international human settlements information system was being prepared for the Conference.

118. The representative of WHO reported that as its contribution to Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements the World Health Assembly would review at its twenty-ninth session in 1976 the health aspects of human settlements, on the basis of consultations with member States regarding four priority items:

(a) The need to strengthen, or create, health services in the course of human settlement development, particularly for poor urban and rural populations;

(b) Infrastructure, especially for providing basic environmental sanitation, water supply and disposal of excreta and waste;

(c) Nutrition;

(d) The need for environmental health criteria for the planning of human settlements for use by those engaged in the more physical aspects of human settlements planning.

Of those items, (a), (b) and (d) should become part of the Fund programme, and WHO was ready to collaborate with UNEP in work on them.

119. The Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council a draft decision on human settlements and habitat submitted by the delegations of Belgium and Portugal.

Action by the Governing Council

120. At its 57th meeting, on 13 April 1976, the Council adopted by consensus the draft decision recommended by Sessional Committee I (decision 51 (IV)). 9/

(ii) Health of people and of the environment

121. A number of delegations said they were encouraged by the development of the programme for health of people and of the environment. However, some speakers stressed that the programme should recognize more clearly the established responsibilities of the specialized agencies. The function of UNEP was to co-ordinate, catalyze and infuse the environmental dimension into the activities of others; plainly, it was not appropriate that UNEP should seek to direct others in health matters or to implement programmes unilaterally. In that context, some countries welcomed evidence that UNEP was co-operating effectively with those parts of the United Nations system which had responsibility for health matters, notably WHO.

122. Several delegations felt that UNEP should not undertake certain aspects of the proposed programme: for example, one thought that UNEP should not be concerned with radiological standards and waste management, and another doubted whether UNEP had the capacity to co-ordinate research into the carcinogenicity or mutagenicity of environmentally significant chemicals, and suggested that its role be confined to bringing together and exchanging information.

9/ For the text of the decision, see annex I below.

123. The total assessment of sulphur oxides was supported and it was suggested that the combined effect of sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates should be included or referred to in the study. One delegation noted the importance and urgency of the proposed direction of work on the assessment of pollutants in all media, and also work on the establishment, taking regional characteristics into account, of environmental health criteria for man and other living organisms and ecosystems. The environmental health criteria programme should now enter its second phase; the programme was a good example of the catalytic role of UNEP, and its success was due to the active participation of member Governments.

124. The proposal to establish environmental criteria for non-human targets was welcomed. However, it was suggested that in view of the breadth of the subject, UNEP should design the programme along the lines of the existing one for environmental health criteria, and thus concentrate its efforts on the collection and presentation of existing information.

125. Most delegations emphasized the importance of IRPTC as a programme activity centre and urged rapid progress in relation to it. Several speakers agreed that henceforth IRPTC should form part of Earthwatch. One country announced that it would soon be ready to make available some 20,000 entries from a national data bank for inclusion in the Register, expressed the hope that the centre would be able to receive them, and urged other countries to make similar inputs. One delegation suggested that the centre should give priority to chemicals developed in the last ten years; another was ready to assist the Executive Director in arranging for a permanent location for the centre. One country expressed its willingness to collaborate with IRPTC providing it received more information about the centre than it had in the past.

126. A number of representatives referred to the potential value of IRPTC in relation to contamination of food chains. Developing countries in particular lacked information about the dangers posed by certain chemicals in food. Sometimes food which was exported from developed to developing countries contained chemicals which were prohibited in food consumed in the country of origin. Difficulties also arose from certain food manufacturers not disclosing what chemical substances they used in food, or labelling those substances with trade descriptions which conveyed very little information. Food might be particularly subject to contamination while being transported; contamination of food resources from the sea was also mentioned. It was felt that developing countries needed the assistance of IRPTC and UNEP in framing national standards or legislation to control the chemical contents of food produced locally or imported; however, one speaker pointed out that the joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission was the principal means of dealing with food contamination problems, and said IRPTC should be linked with it.

127. Several speakers from developing countries pointed out that their environmental health problems differed from those of the industrialized countries. One delegation said that developing countries would require special assistance in applying through environmental management the lessons of assessment in the field of environmental health. The lack of basic environmental sanitation, particularly the absence of water supply and waste disposal, was a major cause of the high morbidity in the developing countries, and a deplorable example of how neglect of an environmental priority had an impact on human health, particularly in rural and poor urban areas. UNEP should give increased attention to that problem.

128. One delegation welcomed the programme for parasitic zoonoses, but urged that it be developed where the incidence of related diseases was greatest.

129. Many delegations emphasized the importance to the developing world of advice from UNEP on integrated, as against exclusively chemical, methods of controlling water-borne diseases such as schistosomiasis, onchocerciasis, malaria and yellow fever; the need for related research and for co-operation with specialized agencies was also stressed. Many of those diseases had spread as a consequence of irrigation, hydro-electric schemes and other activities of man. The development process had to go ahead, and UNEP and the agencies concerned should ensure that environmental aspects of disease control were considered in the planning of such schemes from the outset. However, one speaker pointed out that while UNEP should confine itself to the environmental aspects of schistosomiasis control, the eradication of the disease required other approaches, such as the immunological ones. One speaker, commenting on the suggested action plan for the control of cotton pests (UNEP/GC(IV)/INF.3), urged UNEP to build on the work that had already been undertaken in the integrated control of cotton pests over many years. The need for UNEP to be concerned with the control of other pests was also emphasized.

130. Several speakers referred to the value of a regional approach to environmental health problems: the role of UNEP in the Mediterranean was cited as an example. One country spoke of a major project on the Senegal River basin, affecting a number of west African countries; UNEP should participate in that and similar projects to ensure that environmental constraints were incorporated in the plans.

131. The representative of WHO stated that whereas pollution by chemicals was an important problem in all countries where industrialization and the use of chemicals in agriculture occurred, pollution by biological agents leading to enteric diseases, schistosomiasis, onchocerciasis, trypanosomiasis and malaria in many developing countries was a more important cause of sickness and death; UNEP should become involved in that field.

132. As an example of co-operation, he cited the progress being made by WHO and UNEP in providing interim facilities for IRPTC, pending negotiations concerning its permanent location. WHO was looking forward to joint programming with UNEP in late April 1976, and believed that the effort should cover Levels Two and Three in addition to Level One.

133. The Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council draft decisions on chemicals and physical agents in the environment, submitted by the delegation of Belgium, and on chemical substances and physical agents whose effects on the environment are unknown, submitted by the delegations of Ghana, Portugal, Switzerland and Uruguay.

Action by the Governing Council

134. At its 57th plenary meeting, on 13 April 1976, the Council adopted by consensus the draft decisions recommended by Sessional Committee I (decisions 52 (IV) and 53 (IV), respectively). 10/

10/ For the text of the decisions, see annex I below.

(b) Terrestrial ecosystems: their management and control

135. Many speakers expressed satisfaction with the programme in the priority subject area and with the progress that had been made. The catalytic, co-ordinating role of UNEP emerged clearly from the reports of the Executive Director. Though several delegations urged that UNEP should bear in mind the established functions of other parts of the United Nations system and should avoid duplication in implementing the programme, two delegations pointed out that the Stockholm Conference and the General Assembly had given UNEP a broad mandate in relation to the environment, and it should not be narrowed down. One delegation said the role of UNEP in respect of ecosystems was to close the gap between what was known about, and decided upon to promote, the proper management of ecosystems, and what was in fact happening.

136. The programme in arid lands and rangelands management was considered very important by many speakers, who emphasized the seriousness of the problems facing developing countries in particular. Several delegations found the plans made by UNEP encouraging and said that they related well to the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Desertification. However, some countries felt that UNEP had not yet given enough attention to the particularly grave problems of the Sudan-Sahelian region. Since the situation there had ecological origins, it was suggested that UNEP might co-ordinate the many activities under way; several delegations underlined the need for all United Nations specialized agencies involved to work closely together. Speaking of the same region, one delegation asked UNEP to promote new approaches to land use, and to support dune fixation projects and research into the ecology of Acacia ecosystems. One speaker advised UNEP to be cautious in supporting work on modelling techniques for arid lands problems; another pointed out that solutions to the problems of arid lands must take account of cultural and social factors as well as scientific and technological ones. Several delegations drew attention to the close relationship between arid lands and rangelands issues and those of water, soil, vegetation, land use and carrying capacity of land.

137. The problems of tropical forest destruction had become very serious in recent years, and the importance of the ambitious programme for tropical woodlands and forests was recognized by many delegations; the relationship between the plans of UNEP for tropical forests and project I of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme of UNESCO was also remarked upon. One speaker observed that in tropical Africa those ecosystems appeared robust and productive; in reality they were fragile and frequently abused. He asked that UNEP institute a pilot project in the tropical rain forests of Africa similar to those in Latin America and South East Asia. Another speaker referred to the destruction of tropical forests for the setting up of cattle ranches. The programme for trees was welcomed by several speakers, and one complained that the expert consultation which had been planned as part of the programme was to have been conducted only in English.

138. Several speakers referred to the importance of the programme relating to other ecosystems. Mountain areas were mentioned as being particularly important and vulnerable, and one speaker suggested that UNEP support a conference on the subject. The need for UNEP to maintain its participation in the integrated research programme in the Andean region was emphasized. Three speakers referred to the importance of coastal areas and three to that of wetlands, including estuaries. Other ecosystems mentioned were the South Pacific islands and the humid temperate regions of Europe.

139. Many delegations spoke of the importance of establishing and managing national parks and biosphere reserves, and emphasized the close link with the UNESCO/MAB programme and the work of FAO. Some speakers reported on progress made at the national level in creating a representative system of national parks and reserves. One delegation urged UNEP and other international bodies to assist developing countries in meeting the costs of setting up national parks and in related research and management; such areas were part of the global heritage. One delegation spoke of the need for public support for and understanding of the purposes of reserves. Several delegations pointed out that gene banks were no substitute for ecosystems preserved in situ. One delegation endorsed the plan of action for parks and reserves (UNEP/GC/60, paras. 61-72), another asked UNEP to give guidance on the establishment of national parks, several referred to the importance of UNEP continuing to assist in the training of park managers and other conservation experts, and one pointed out that the existence of reserves should not be taken as an excuse for neglecting ecological considerations in the management of other areas.

140. One delegation said UNEP should give increased attention to the related issue of endangered species and wildlife; another felt that the Level One report glossed over the threats to endangered species of African wildlife. One speaker referred to the recent meeting at Brussels of the environment ministers of the States members of the Council of Europe and urged UNEP to be more active in promoting international legislation for wildlife protection, especially in regard to migratory species. In that respect, another representative described the steps his country was taking, in conjunction with IUCN and UNEP, to develop a convention for the protection of migratory species and said that an expert meeting would be held later in 1976 to elaborate the draft convention prepared by IUCN. One speaker made a strong plea for UNEP to be outspoken in its condemnation of what he described as "eco-crime", namely, the ruthless exploitation of those species which were of economic value, and referred to the particular threat posed to wildlife by poaching and the authorized and tolerated marketing of the products of poaching which constituted the principal stimulus for it.

141. The significant impact of soil erosion, degradation and fertility loss was referred to by a number of representatives. One pointed out that erosion control and soil conservation measures depended upon the co-operation of land users; he and several other speakers urged that the promotion of rational land use be a central feature of the programme's approach. Several delegations emphasized the importance of the concept of carrying capacity as a basis for the wise use of land, especially land which was vulnerable to the encroachment of deserts. One delegation said that land management should be undertaken as a scientific experiment, the impact of management techniques being monitored and studied on a continuing basis. Another called attention to the importance of indigenous plants in protecting and restoring soil. One delegation said that UNEP should give more attention to the restoration of productive soil damaged by human activities, such as mining.

142. Several delegations gave highest priority to the water programme and emphasized the importance of both water quantity and water quality. One delegation described steps taken in his country to establish an international training centre for water management in conformity with a recommendation of the Governing Council at

its third session; support for that initiative was expressed by several delegations. Two speakers said that the protection of sea water from pollution was especially important to those countries which obtained much of their water from desalinated sea water. The need for careful exploration and exploitation of ground-water resources was referred to by several delegations. It was noted that water was the theme of World Environment Day, 1976, and many speakers expressed their hope that the forthcoming United Nations Water Conference, to be held at Mar del Plata, Argentina, from 7 to 18 March 1977, would identify solutions to the problems facing their countries. It was also pointed out that the organization and convening of the UNEP international symposium on problems of eutrophication and rehabilitation of water bodies, to be held in the German Democratic Republic from 20 to 25 September 1976, would promote successful solution of a number of major problems in that field.

143. The representative of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs gave an account of the preparations for the United Nations Water Conference, in which he referred to the contribution UNEP had made to them. The Conference would enable countries to manage their water resources more effectively. Preparatory activities, involving countries and the United Nations system, were already well advanced. Through a series of pre-conference regional meetings later in 1976, it was intended to formulate conference recommendations for action at the national level and for co-ordination of programmes throughout the United Nations system, but without the establishment of a new institution. The Committee on Natural Resources, which was acting as the preparatory committee for the Conference, had recently recommended the appointment of a Secretary-General for the Conference. The Committee had also expressed its appreciation to UNEP for the technical inputs provided and for the assistance offered to representatives of developing countries attending the regional preparatory meetings, and had urged UNEP to increase its financial support for the preparatory work for the Conference. The close co-ordination which had been established between the secretariat of the United Nations Water Conference and that of the United Nations Conference on Desertification was gratifying.

144. The representative of the host country for the United Nations Water Conference expressed his hope that member States of UNEP would participate fully in the Conference. He urged countries which had not already done so to establish national committees to prepare their contributions to the Conference. While he appreciated the support already given by UNEP in preparing for the Conference, he hoped that further assistance would be given by the Programme. In that connexion he mentioned the possibility of UNEP funding the costs of travel to the Conference of delegations from developing countries, which might otherwise experience difficulties in that respect just as UNEP was currently meeting the cost of travel by participants from developing countries to the regional preparatory meetings. He further stressed the need for UNEP to adopt an increasingly active role in the Conference preparations in areas where it had competence, particularly regarding the follow-up of pertinent recommendations of the Stockholm Action Plan for the Human Environment. 11/ Finally, he expressed the wish that UNEP contribute to the goals and objectives of the Conference through public information activities.

11/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. II, sect. B.

145. While several delegations referred to the importance of the programme on genetic resources, a few said that it was inappropriate for UNEP to be directly involved in the study of micro-organisms; its role, one suggested, should be one of co-ordination only. Other speakers thought the matter was important to UNEP. One delegation pointed out that the irrational use and dispersal of chemical products (pesticides, fertilizers, antibiotics, heavy metals, etc.) could have a serious impact on the microbiological balance and hence an effect on soil quality. One speaker suggested that UNEP should concern itself with the possible dangers to the environment of genetic engineering, and another described national activities relating to crop plant genetic resources and welcomed the inclusion of fish genetic resources within the programme.

146. Many delegations were critical of the proposed programme in the area of food: most of them referred to the responsibilities of FAO and the World Food Council, said that UNEP should confine itself to the ecological aspects of food production and indicated that there was no need to regroup ongoing and planned activities which could be better developed within the priority areas to which they had previously been assigned. One delegation also queried whether certain elements in the proposed strategy could be considered as environmental. Another speaker said he did not believe UNEP should give priority to food matters, nor did he agree that UNEP had a central role in this regard. One speaker said the proposal for a new priority area implied a further spreading of the programme's priorities, which he could not support.

147. Three delegations agreed with the Executive Director's proposals for food. One delegation, noting the importance and urgency of the food problem for the developing countries and stressing the relationship between that problem and many environmental problems, said that UNEP should in any case define more clearly and generalize the ecological aspects of the food problem, and give due attention to its examination. Another speaker said that a few people would disagree with the urgency of the food problem, that nearly every aspect of the food issue had an environmental component and that UNEP was the one international body which was devoted solely to environmental concerns. That being so, he found no difficulty in accepting a proposal which gave visibility to food within the programme, though that did not mean that UNEP should be operationally involved.

148. In reply to the above observations, the Special Adviser to the Executive Director for Programme Matters explained that the Executive Director hoped, by his proposal, to focus attention on the environmental and ecological implications of food production, and believed that could best be done if all the ongoing and planned activities of UNEP relating to the topic were regrouped into one programme. In that way, the gaps in the programme of UNEP itself, and important omissions in United Nations activities generally, could be more readily identified. UNEP was not intending to exercise a unilateral function but to apply its catalytic and co-ordinating role in full recognition of the central role of such bodies as FAO and the World Food Council. The Executive Director believed his proposal was in harmony with resolutions of the World Food Conference. The concerns of some delegations might be allayed, however, if the proposed priority area were retitled "Environmental aspects of food production".

149. Several delegations, in discussing the problems of terrestrial ecosystems, referred to steps which were being taken or planned to establish training centres for managers of tropical and subtropical ecosystems. Two developing countries in Africa urged UNEP to support institutions in their countries and a number of

speakers stressed the importance of UNEP promoting training in aspects of ecosystem management. One delegation emphasized the importance of integrating ecological considerations into all aspects of education and training. Ecology should not be taught as just another isolated subject.

150. The representative of UNESCO said that the terrestrial ecosystems section of the programme was of particular interest to his organization, especially in view of its close relationship to the MAB programme, which UNEP was supporting, and to the International Hydrological Programme. Referring to certain aspects of the programme, he asked for clarification as to the precise relationship between some of the proposals made by UNEP and the follow-up of those in the MAB programme which had been prepared jointly with UNEP. He regretted that no programme had yet been developed with UNEP in relation to water, and he stressed the importance of scientific work in the field of micro-organisms. The establishment on the initiative of UNEP, of the Ecosystems Conservation Group, on which UNESCO, FAO, IUCN and UNEP were represented, was a welcome step; he was therefore concerned that the establishment of a world network of biosphere reserves, the MAB 8 project, to which the Group had given its support, had not been mentioned in the Fund programme document (UNEP/GC/62 and Corr.1). The resources of the Fund which had been proposed for ecosystem conservation might be too small to give effect to the recommendation of the Group for a single representative of the four organizations in each region. He was particularly concerned that no mention was made in the Executive Director's proposals of the importance of training in tropical ecology or in the integrated management of land resources, even though joint UNEP/UNESCO activities on those subjects had been initiated.

151. The representative of FAO endorsed the catalytic role of UNEP and noted with satisfaction the increasingly effective co-operation between FAO and UNEP, especially on the operational level where a number of joint projects were being undertaken. FAO, whose activities in environmental matters predated the Stockholm Conference, had an interdivisional working group which ensured that environmental components were taken into account in the organization's activities. However, he did not agree that production of food could be disassociated from other aspects of agriculture; agriculture must be viewed as a whole, particularly in relation to its environmental impact. Finally, he stressed the need for more systematic joint programming, especially in those areas to which the governing bodies of FAO had given priority, namely, arid zones, tropical forest and mountain ecosystems; soil degradation and improvement in arid and tropical zones; development of appropriate techniques for ecosystem management in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and forestry; and training.

152. At the conclusion of its debate on the priority subject area, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council draft decisions on the African tropical rain-forest ecosystem, submitted by the Central African Republic, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Rwanda and Zaire, on water resources, submitted by Argentina, Belgium, Canada, France, Kuwait, Mexico, the Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, Uruguay and Zaire, and on protection of migratory birds, submitted by Uruguay. The representative of Brazil was absent during the discussion and approval of the draft decision on water resources. The Committee also agreed to include its additional recommendations regarding "Terrestrial ecosystems, their management and control" in the general draft decision on programme and Fund programme activities (see para. 238 below).

Action by the Governing Council

153. At its 57th plenary meeting, on 13 April 1976, the Governing Council adopted by consensus the draft decision on the African tropical rain-forest ecosystem as orally revised by the representative of Zaire (decision 54 (IV)), as well as the other two draft decisions recommended by Sessional Committee I (decisions 55 (IV) and 56 (IV)). ^{12/} For other action by the Governing Council on the Committee's recommendations concerning "Terrestrial ecosystems, their management and control", see paragraph 239 below.

^{12/} For the text of the decisions, see annex I below.

(c) Environment and development

154. Delegations were unanimous that the priority area was extremely important; many referred to its central role within the programme, and some urged a reallocation of funds to ensure an acceleration of work on environment and development.

155. Many delegations spoke appreciatively of the progress made by the Executive Director in implementing the objectives agreed to by the Governing Council. Some delegations approved of the strategies contained in the Level Two document, though two said they found them over-ambitious and some suggestions were made for amendments to elements of the strategies.

156. The relationship between environment and development was referred to by many delegations. One pointed out that the relationship was really what the entire programme was about; care should therefore be taken not to confuse the broader issue and the particular priority area. Several speakers said environment and development were complementary, indissoluble concepts. A number of delegations said that the pursuit of development, especially in developing countries, was a basic human right, but the commitment should be to rational, sound and sustainable development, paying proper regard to ecological factors. Some delegations pointed out that the relationship between environment and development was not just a factor in industrialization, but was also relevant to agricultural development. Another said it was wrong to ask what was the cost of incorporating environmental considerations into development planning: the question should be what it would cost society in terms of health hazards and ecological dangers to ignore environmental considerations. One delegation spoke of its concern and regret at the almost complete neglect of the environment in the deliberations and resolutions of the seventh special session of the General Assembly. Several Latin American delegations referred to the regional preparatory meeting held in Caracas shortly before the fourth session of the Governing Council which had defined the main thoughts of the region on development and environment. The same delegations felt that more time should be allocated to environment and development at the next session of the Governing Council, as it was a matter of great complexity and relevance.

157. Many delegations underlined the importance of UNEP collaborating closely with other parts of the United Nations system in relation to environment and development. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNDP, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the World Bank and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat were specifically mentioned. The special relevance of the second UNDP indicative planning figure cycle, for 1977-1981, was referred to. One speaker felt that the Level Two document gave the impression that UNEP would have an operational role, which would, of course, be inappropriate. Another, while commending the capabilities of the Brookings Institution and the Rockefeller Foundation, asked whether it would not be more appropriate for the study of taxing the use of the global commons (UNEP/GC/61, para. 157) to be carried out by some United Nations bodies which might better reflect developing countries' views.

158. Several speakers said the topic of environment and development, and the programme relating to it, were just as relevant to developed countries as they were to developing ones; one said that, in one sense, all countries were developing. However, a number of speakers from developing countries drew attention to the environmental problems which arose directly from the extreme poverty in which many people in the developing world lived; they believed the activities of UNEP could be of special relevance to the needs of those people. Several delegations noted that the precise nature of environment/development issues differed from one region to another, and therefore endorsed the Executive Director's proposals for a series of regional seminars on the subject.

159. A number of delegations referred to the Executive Director's proposal to refine the interim reports on environment and development (UNEP/GC/76), the irrational and wasteful use of natural resources (UNEP/GC/79) and ecodevelopment (UNEP/GC/80). They suggested that the intergovernmental group which would be considering the natural resources report should also review the other two documents to ensure compatibility and consistency between all three; the views of other United Nations agencies on the three documents should also be sought. One speaker asked that the approach of UNEP to environment and development be consolidated and integrated; that integration should not only embrace the existing programme in the priority area, but should also include resource management and environmental management.

160. One speaker felt that work in the field was still at an embryonic stage; he and other representatives called for a further elaboration of basic concepts. However, a number of delegations urged UNEP to give priority to action-oriented activities which could be of real assistance to countries, especially developing ones. One such speaker found some of the proposed additions to the strategy for the integrated approach to environment and development (UNEP/GC/61, para. 150) encouraging in that regard. Another observed that action should go ahead while concepts were being refined, though the strategies might need reassessment after the fifth session of the Governing Council.

161. Many speakers referred to the importance of UNEP assisting Governments especially those of developing countries, in assessing the environmental impact of major development proposals. Mention was made of the need for UNEP to encourage international organizations to take environmental factors into account in their plans; one way to do so was by supporting feasibility studies to assess environmental impact before development took place, thus avoiding the need for costly remedial measures later. One proposed that UNEP help formulate environmental guidelines to assist developing countries engaged in industrialization. Several delegations expressed their concern about industrialists who tended to ignore environmental factors in their activities, a practice which one suggested might be called "wildcat development". Some delegations linked their observations about the role of UNEP in developing methods of environmental assessment to requests that UNEP should collect and disseminate information on a number of aspects of the environment/development relationship.

162. On the subject of technology, a number of countries proposed that UNEP should give more attention to the promotion of environmentally sound and appropriate technologies, especially in relation to developing countries' needs for industry and rural development. Speakers referred to the importance of taking environmental factors into account in the transfer of technologies from developed to developing countries, and two said UNEP should concern itself with the role of multinational

corporations in that regard. One speaker warned that technology, and its potential impact on the environment, were evolving so rapidly that UNEP might find it hard to keep up with developments. The importance of a network of pilot demonstration projects was also mentioned.

163. A number of speakers referred to the importance of the programme in industrial location. One said that if the objectives of the new international economic order were realized, many developing countries would find polluting industries located in their territory, but another pointed out that developing countries still had the chance to avoid the mistakes made by developed nations. One delegation described the problems which arose when polluting industry was sited near residential areas, and another thought UNEP should pay more attention to the location of major public works. Several delegations felt that industrial location and the environmental problems of specific industries were closely interrelated, and one said that they should be studied as a single problem.

164. Many delegations spoke of their interest in the industrial seminars, and one said that they could be of importance and value to all countries. The same speaker stressed the need for Governments, industrial managers and trade unions to co-operate in the seminars, but expressed his concern about the limited representation of Government environmental specialists at the two seminars already held and about the effectiveness of the follow-up to the seminar recommendations. Two delegations, stressing the importance of the participation of trade union representatives, felt that the working environment was an appropriate issue for consideration by the seminars, but another was concerned that their original focus, the environmental impact of the manufacturing process, was in danger of being lost sight of. There was agreement that the Executive Director should be asked to evaluate and review the industry programme, giving particular attention to the attainment of objectives, the arrangements for follow-up and the avoidance of duplication with the work of other international organizations, and to report briefly on the outcome of the review to the Governing Council at its fifth session.

165. Several speakers commented on the central place of population within the environment/development relationship. One said that UNEP should take up the problem, while another noted that the rate of population increase had declined dramatically wherever significant economic and social development had occurred.

166. At the conclusion of its debate on the priority subject area, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council a draft decision, submitted by the delegation of the United Kingdom, on environmental problems of specific industries. The Committee agreed to include its additional recommendations regarding "Environment and development" in the general draft decision on programme and Fund programme activities (see para. 238 below).

Action by the Governing Council

167. At its 57th meeting, on 13 April 1976, the Council adopted by consensus, as orally amended by the delegation of Canada, the draft decision recommended by Sessional Committee I (decision 57 (IV)). ^{13/} For other action by the Council on the Committee's recommendations regarding "Environment and development", see paragraph 239 below.

^{13/} For the text of the decision, see annex I below.

168. The Governing Council also adopted at its 59th meeting, on 14 April 1976, a draft decision on environment and development (decision 79 (IV)) 13/ submitted in plenary under agenda item 14 (see chap. XI below).

(d) Oceans

169. The strategy and activities undertaken and proposed by the Executive Director regarding oceans were generally endorsed. Many speakers saw in the programme further evidence of the proper application of the catalytic function of UNEP. There was also strong support for the regional approach which UNEP had adopted. One speaker, however, expressed his concern that there was not enough co-ordination between regional programmes and suggested that the Executive Director should develop an integrated programme for the oceans within the framework of Earthwatch.

170. One delegation felt that it was inappropriate at present to engage in any extensive programme of open ocean monitoring, particularly when the results of the Integrated Global Ocean Station System petroleum pilot project had not been evaluated. Another speaker, however, said that ocean monitoring was an important activity; referring to the recent meeting of experts on the subject, sponsored by UNEP and held in conjunction with the joint Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)/WMO planning group of IGOSS, he urged that priority be given to the implementation of the open ocean monitoring pilot project in the Atlantic.

171. The importance of global conventions in controlling pollution of the seas, especially pollution from ships, was emphasized by several delegations, and some of them urged Governments which had not already done so to ratify those conventions as soon as possible. The part which could be played by regional conventions in controlling marine pollution was also referred to, and a number of delegations described national activities which could have relevance to international efforts to safeguard the oceans.

172. Numerous delegations commended the achievements of the Mediterranean programme and attributed its success to the active role of UNEP, the willingness of Mediterranean States to co-operate in the programme, the support of the specialized agencies, in particular IMCO, and the careful preparation of the programme.

173. While several delegations said UNEP must continue to be actively involved in the region, particularly as the agreements so far reached were only a beginning, two speakers regretted that UNEP appeared to have assumed an executive function of some permanence, which seemed inconsistent with its catalytic role. They both said that, in that and similar instances, UNEP should concentrate on the initial development of the programme, while the contracting parties should provide the permanent secretariat once the work was sufficiently advanced. It was pointed out that Governments did provide that service for a number of environmental conventions.

174. One speaker criticized the directory of research and monitoring institutions in the Mediterranean, which had been prepared by the secretariat; it had not been compiled in consultation with appropriate authorities of his country. The same speaker expressed the wish that the meeting on the "Blue Plan" 14/ for the Mediterranean which was planned for September 1976 in Yugoslavia should be postponed in order to ensure adequate preparation and qualified participation. An offer to establish a subregional oil-combating centre on Crete received some support.

14/ A global integrated plan for the development and management of natural resources in the Mediterranean region.

175. Almost all speakers were of the view that the Mediterranean programme should serve as a model for other regions, though the approach would need adaptation to the ecological, social, economic, cultural and political condition of each region. The following points were made about programmes for other regional seas:

(a) The Persian Gulf: ^{15/} One delegation said that its Government had taken the initiative to commence preparatory work for an intergovernmental conference, similar to that for the Mediterranean. The conference would draw up and conclude an agreement on the protection of the Gulf against marine pollution; it would take place after the conclusions of the interagency mission, at present in the Gulf, were available, and should ensure participation of all the coastal States concerned. The delegation emphasized that UNEP should support the conference and play an active role in its realization. Another delegation suggested that the interested States should be consulted;

(b) The Caribbean Sea: Many representatives expressed their support for the immediate and rapid development of a programme in the Caribbean. One suggested that in so doing UNEP should give special attention to the development of indigenous institutional and human resources. Another pointed out that IOC, at its ninth Assembly, had established the IOC Association for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions. Since its purpose was to design, develop and co-ordinate the implementation of marine science activities, the Association might be a suitable body to carry out the marine aspects of the environment programme in the region.

(c) East Asia Seas: Mention was made of a UNEP-supported workshop on marine pollution, being held at Penang in April 1976. One representative said that actions in the coastal area should be based on strict respect for the sovereignty of coastal States, and added that it was not appropriate to start research and monitoring activities in the region before the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea had concluded its business;

(d) Red Sea: One speaker emphasized the unique qualities of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, with UNEP support, had convened at Jeddah two meetings of the eight countries bordering the sea. The second meeting, held in January 1976, had evolved a draft convention, established a scientific research programme and set up a special fund. The speaker suggested that UNEP's financial involvement in the region should be increased, and proposed that some projects described in the document on the Fund programme could help provide the necessary additional funding;

(e) Indian Ocean: A few speakers proposed that UNEP should develop a programme for the Indian Ocean, to include the definition of environmental problems, assessment of the capabilities of countries and their need for training and expertise, and assessment of the conditions and potential productivity of marine resources such as mangrove swamps and coral reefs.

^{15/} For comments by delegations regarding this and other regional seas, see also para. 60 above.

176. The objectives and strategies for living marine resources were widely supported. Many speakers particularly emphasized the need to conserve whales and other marine mammals. One delegation reiterated its support for a 10-year moratorium on the killing of whales and proposed a set of draft principles concerning further international activities in the protection of whales, another welcomed the inclusion of sirenians within the UNEP programme, and a third, though sharing the concern about marine mammals, expressed some reservations about UNEP's involvement in questions of exploitation of fish, where many other international bodies were already involved.

177. The representative of IMCO said that issues of marine pollution were increasingly important to IMCO. IMCO played a leading role in the establishment of a number of global conventions on marine pollution which were deposited within the organization and had an extremely active Marine Environment Protection Committee. IMCO had already submitted to UNEP a project document for the establishment of an oil-combating centre in the Mediterranean, as called for at the second Barcelona Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States of the Mediterranean Region for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea. IMCO was ready to provide every possible assistance to countries faced with marine pollution problems, including technical assistance in the formulation of regional agreements. The representative welcomed the co-operation which had already been established with UNEP and was confident that it would be further developed; he further supported the proposal made by one delegation related to that issue.

178. The representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat described the work of the Ocean Economics and Technology Office. In line with resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, the work of the office was based on two principles: that rational development of ocean and coastal resources required an integrated, comprehensive approach; and that that in turn required co-operation within the United Nations system. As the Level Two document made clear, the office was already co-operating closely with UNEP in several regional seas.

179. The representative of UNESCO welcomed the catalytic role which UNEP had performed in the Mediterranean. Careful planning and co-ordination in matters related to the marine environment were necessary, and maximum use should be made of the interagency machinery of IOC. The activities envisaged under the Mediterranean Blue Plan corresponded closely to the MAB plans for research in the marine environment. He urged Governments to respond fully to inquiries from UNESCO regarding pollution in rivers discharging into the sea. UNESCO was ready to collaborate with UNEP, particularly in training relating to pollution studies and the workings of ocean ecosystems.

180. At the conclusion of its debate on oceans, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council draft decisions on oceans, submitted by Kuwait, and protection of whales, submitted by the United States of America. The Committee secretary announced that the representative of Iran had written to the Executive Director indicating that his delegation would abstain in the event of a vote on the first of the draft decisions. The Committee agreed to include its additional recommendations regarding "Oceans" (Marine living resources) in the general draft decision on programme and Fund programme activities (see para. 238 below).

Action by the Governing Council

181. At its 57th meeting, on 13 April 1976, the Governing Council adopted by consensus the two draft decisions recommended by Sessional Committee I (decisions 58 (IV) and 59 (IV), respectively). ^{16/} For other action by the Governing Council on the Committee's recommendations regarding "Oceans", see paragraph 239 below.

(e) Energy

182. The progress in implementing the strategy was generally welcomed. The co-operation between UNEP and other United Nations organizations, especially that with IAEA, was noted with appreciation.

183. The Executive Director's report on the impact of the production and use of energy on the environment (UNEP/GC/61/Add.1) was commended by many speakers as useful and comprehensive. Many delegations believed it should be kept under continuous review and updated as the facts required. Suggestions made for improving the text included:

(a) More emphasis should be put on the resource demands of different forms of energy; as drafted, the document tended to be pollution oriented;

(b) More attention should be paid to such issues as land use, the environmental impact of the transport of energy, and of coal in particular, the impact of electricity transmission on the landscape and the possibility of its causing electromagnetic pollution, noise in association with many aspects of energy production and use, rehabilitation of strip-mined areas, the domestic and industrial use of fossil fuels and the associated problem of smoke abatement, thermal pollution in coastal regions and energy conservation at the point of end use;

(c) The bibliography should be broadened to be more internationally representative, and more use should have been made of the work carried out by specialized research institutions;

(d) The references to the effect of sulphur oxides on the environment (UNEP/GC/61/Add.1, paras. 57 and 58) and to the control of their release into the atmosphere were criticized by three delegations, which considered there was ample scientific evidence of the serious threat such oxides posed to the environment and human health and of the inadequacies of certain emission control techniques. One delegation, however, found the balance in the document about right, there were many unknown factors and, since a conference on sulphur oxides pollution was soon to be held in Norway and a study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on the subject was under way, it was premature to come to conclusions on the matter.

184. A number of delegations requested UNEP to convene a series of expert panels to examine detailed individual studies of the impact of the main sources of energy. It was stated that UNEP had a mandate to concern itself with all sources of energy, though a number of delegations said that UNEP should not repeat work that had already been done elsewhere and should avoid duplication with the work of other organizations, notably IAEA.

^{16/} For the text of the decisions, see annex I below.

185. Some delegations specifically endorsed the proposals to encourage further research in certain fields (UNEP/GC/61, para. 213) related to energy. One delegation offered to make available to the Executive Director his country's experience in one of the proposed fields for research: the rehabilitation of strip-mined areas.

186. The programme for harnessing renewable sources of energy, particularly in rural areas of developing countries, which were particularly susceptible to the destruction of forests and trees for charcoal, was given much support and most speakers endorsed UNEP playing a leading role in the field. The importance of the pilot demonstration centres decided on by the Governing Council at its third session was mentioned in that regard. One delegation expressed its concern about what it saw as a lack of progress in establishing the centres, but another said one such centre in its country would probably become operational in 1977. One delegation proposed that the feasibility studies should be carefully examined before any centres were established. Several speakers pointed out that renewable sources of energy, such as solar energy and hydroelectric power, if used on a large-scale, could also have adverse environmental impacts. Others said they hoped UNEP would involve itself with the environmental implications of the transfer of energy technology.

187. One delegation stated, in reply to another delegation, that its Government opposed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII), annex), on the grounds that the Treaty had been devised by the super-Powers to disguise their own nuclear expansion and nuclear monopoly, and was a huge fraud aimed at depriving other nations of their capability to develop nuclear power, and of their legitimate right of self-defence. The speaker went on to say that his country had developed nuclear weapons entirely for self-defence, for breaking the nuclear threat and nuclear monopoly of the super-Powers, and stated that his country would at no time and under no circumstances be the first to use nuclear weapons. He further pointed out that the large numbers of nuclear weapon tests conducted by the two super-Powers, and their stockpiling of great quantities of nuclear weapons, constituted not only a great threat to the security of mankind, but also an important cause of the disruption of the human environment. In addition he stated that his country reserved the right to make comments in the future on the establishment of the nuclear fuel recycling centres (UNEP/GC/61, para. 216 (b)). Other delegations stated that in signing the Treaty their Governments had been guided solely by concern for human well-being and for strengthening international peace and security, and that continued practice of atmospheric testing was a serious environmental hazard.

188. The representative of IAEA indicated his organization's support for many aspects of the programme. Noting that a very large amount of information was available on the environmental impacts of nuclear energy and rather less on the environmental consequences of other ways of providing energy, he welcomed the Executive Director's proposal to hold a series of seminars to study the impact of each form of energy in turn, and said that IAEA would co-operate fully with UNEP.

189. The representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat said that its Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport had long been active in promoting, through projects and publications, a greater interest in novel forms of energy. The Department was pleased to have taken part in the review of the Executive Director's report on the environmental impact of energy, and hoped that co-operation with UNEP would be further strengthened, especially in regard to renewable sources of energy where the Department had much experience to offer.

190. The representative of WHO emphasized his organization's concern, and that of national health agencies, with a full appreciation of the risks involved in energy options, especially in the choice between coal, oil and natural gas on the one hand and nuclear power on the other. Health agencies had to advise the public on those matters; therefore it was extremely important to include health factors in the study of energy options which the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) was carrying out for UNEP.

191. The observer for the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources welcomed the Executive Director's report, urged that an amended version be widely disseminated and hoped UNEP would update the report. IUCN considered that future energy policies were central to the condition of the human environment, that many societies were wasteful with energy, that all forms of energy had environmental effects and that the consequences of the massive development of fast breeder reactors would create great problems for future generations. IUCN had recently adopted a resolution on energy which urged immediate conservation measures so as to buy time which could be used to develop new technologies, restrain the growth of nuclear energy and assess the consequences of alternative courses of action.

192. The Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council a draft decision on renewable energy resources, submitted initially by a number of delegations, and subsequently revised and submitted on behalf of the members of the Group of 77 represented in the Governing Council. The Committee agreed to include its additional recommendations regarding "Energy" in the general draft decision on programme and Fund programme activities (see para. 238 below).

Action by the Governing Council

193. At its 57th meeting, on 13 April 1976, the Council adopted by consensus, as orally amended by the representative of the Soviet Union, the draft decision recommended by Sessional Committee I (decision 60 (IV)).^{17/} For other action by the Governing Council on the Committee's recommendations regarding "Energy", see paragraph 239 below.

(f) Natural disasters

194. Speakers were unanimous in giving support to the strategies proposed for natural disasters, particularly in the light of the priority the subject had received at the Stockholm Conference and the attention given to it at the seventh special session of the General Assembly. Several speakers suggested that the funding allocated was inadequate for the purpose, and felt the Executive Director should look into the possibility of increased commitment in the future. Another requested that the importance of monitoring of disasters within GEMS be given priority consideration, as agreed during the intergovernmental meeting on monitoring held in February 1974.^{18/}

^{17/} For the text of the decision, see annex I below.

^{18/} For the report of the meeting, see UNEP/GO/24.

195. The economic damage, loss of life and human suffering caused by natural disasters were described by several delegations, and the need to protect man from the environment was stressed. Moreover, one speaker pointed out that, while some disasters, such as earthquakes, were sudden and unpredictable, others could be caused through human aggression against nature; he cited as examples drought, flooding and desertification. One speaker asked that drought be included in the list of disasters to be studied, and another indicated that his and other delegations were particularly concerned with typhoons and weather modification.

196. The attention of the Committee was drawn specifically to Guatemala, which had recently suffered a major disaster. It was proposed that the Executive Director be asked to express the sympathy of the Governing Council to the Government of Guatemala and ensure that UNEP assist to the utmost of its ability in measures to counter the effects of the disaster.

197. One delegation, supported by a number of others, emphasized the need to devise practical methods of disaster prevention, warning, mitigation and control and suggested that the Executive Director be asked to submit to the Governing Council at its fifth session a report on the implementation of that activity, along with the Level One study on natural disasters. Other speakers supported the co-operative efforts of UNDRO and UNEP, particularly the World Survey of Disaster Damage and the study of the state of the art in disaster prevention and mitigation. The Office was praised as one of the most effective United Nations organizations, and it was suggested that UNEP should co-operate with it, within the terms of the mandate assigned to UNEP under General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), but should not compete in undertaking the co-ordinating role of the Office.

198. One speaker drew attention to a study his country was considering on the assessment of the state of the art in disaster assistance, which would complement the UNDRO/UNEP activities and would be made available to UNEP and other United Nations agencies.

199. Several delegations indicated that they needed more information to evaluate the proposed study tours and country preparedness projects.

200. The Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council draft decisions on natural disasters, submitted by India, and expressing regret at the disaster suffered by Guatemala, submitted by Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Spain and Uruguay. The Committee agreed to include its additional recommendations regarding "Natural disasters" in the general draft decision on programme and Fund programme activities (see para. 238 below).

Action by the Governing Council

201. At its 57th meeting, on 13 April 1976, the Council adopted by consensus the two draft decisions recommended by Sessional Committee I (decisions 61 (IV) and 62 (IV), respectively). ^{19/} For other action by the Governing Council on the Committee's recommendations regarding "Natural disasters", see paragraph 239 below.

2. Functional tasks

(a) Environmental assessment: Earthwatch

202. Numerous observations and suggestions were made about the general concept of Earthwatch and its specific components, namely, GEMS, IRS and outer limits. A number of delegations stated their belief that the area was basic to the programme and merited continued support. The plan of action proposed by the Executive Director was generally acceptable to most delegations, and several indicated that it received less UNEP funding than they would like to see. Support was given to the Executive Director's introductory review, which described how research, monitoring, assessment and information exchange related to each other under Earthwatch; several delegations approved the inclusion of IRPTC within Earthwatch. However, one delegation said research and evaluation had been neglected as functions of Earthwatch. Another delegation stressed the importance of all Earthwatch activities as a basis for decisions regarding environmental management. One representative requested that in future Earthwatch should not come late on the agenda, so that adequate time would be available for its consideration.

(i) Global Environmental Monitoring System

203. Delegations welcomed the progress now being made with GEMS. One speaker described it as the information basis for other Earthwatch activities, and worthy of acceleration and expansion, particularly through expert group meetings to assist in setting programme goals. One delegation said GEMS should be used to identify environmental violations.

204. The advances made by GEMS in meteorology and open ocean monitoring were commented upon favourably by some representatives. The secretariat was urged to include monitoring of human activities in the fields of urbanization, and of human settlements and human health in general. Several delegations underlined the need to give special attention to monitoring in relation to health. One delegation reminded the secretariat that, in line with earlier decisions of the Governing Council, GEMS should be primarily concerned with global and regional monitoring.

205. One delegation was particularly concerned that GEMS should extend its monitoring activity to include the problem of sand-storms and suspended dust in the atmosphere, which not only caused respiratory distress to humans, but was also a medium for holding other pollutants in the air. Another suggestion, made by several delegations, was that it was important to give consideration to studying the problem of long-range transport of sulphur compounds in the atmosphere.

^{19/} For the text of the decisions, see annex I below.

206. One speaker felt that the scientific basis for integrating a number of different monitoring activities had not yet been established, and called attention to that important activity. He also judged that since the 1974 meeting on monitoring, the scale of UNEP activities in the establishment of GEMS had diminished, and drew attention to the importance of training personnel for GEMS, especially in developing countries. Further GEMS efforts should include better co-ordination and harmonization of monitoring within the United Nations system.

(ii) International Referral System

207. Delegations recognized the difficulties which IRS had encountered in developing effective co-operative relations with countries. Nevertheless, the need to develop appropriate institutions as efficient focal points was underlined by several speakers. It was suggested that the Executive Director devote more intensive efforts to the system, and in particular ensure the provision of useful information by meeting the needs of users, by including GEMS, IRPTC and other United Nations information systems as sources, and by providing supporting technical assistance and training, in particular to developing countries. IRS could also serve as a source of information for countries in preparing for international conferences, such as that on desertification. One speaker indicated that many Governments in the developing world would be interested in and support IRS, but only if it was shown to be useful.

208. Another delegation stated that IRS should give priority to sources of information held by other United Nations agencies. One representative pointed to the information system being developed by the European Economic Community as an important potential source. Another re-emphasized the importance it attached to studies designed to develop common terminologies.

(iii) Outer limits

209. One delegation proposed that more funds should be allocated to work on outer limits. Another suggested that work might need to be expanded to take into account the environmental implications of recent advances in molecular biology and enzymology.

210. The programme and strategy relating to climatic change were generally approved, and a suggestion was made that it would be appropriate to consider the relation between energy production and climatic change.

211. Since scientific knowledge was still inadequate, it was felt that it would be premature to convene a group of experts to make recommendations on principles to govern weather modification. The meeting should be postponed until a later date to be determined in consultation with WMO.

212. One speaker recommended that UNEP should not proceed with studies on the mechanism of photosynthesis and its genetics, since the subject was more than adequately covered by existing national and international institutions. Another felt that UNEP should not abandon its interest in the subject.

213. Several representatives saw the need for a strong UNEP co-ordinating role in research on the problem of pollutants adversely affecting the ozone layer, one suggesting that it would be particularly appropriate for UNEP to concentrate on the scientific and technological aspects, especially in the areas of effects on health, environment and climate, through appropriate specialized agencies. Two representatives saw the catalytic activities of UNEP as leading ultimately to an international convention safeguarding the ozone layer. It was suggested that UNEP should convene in 1976 a meeting of international bodies to consider risks to the ozone layer, consequent risks to the biosphere, and the division of labour in handling research on various aspects of the problem.

214. The suggested new area of social outer limits was the subject of some discussion, with one speaker finding it innovative and promising, even if complex, while another felt that the activity could as well be undertaken in the priority area ecodevelopment. Several members commented on the potential value of the concept and the appropriateness of the sociological element within the context of other programme activities, while cautioning that it should be carefully defined and appraised before any major activities were undertaken. One delegation advised that the preliminary work should not be done by only one research institution, since it would then necessarily represent one methodology and one social philosophy, while another asked especially that the views of the developing countries with regard to the topic be included, especially in so far as it related to the social problems caused by population increase and growth in general.

215. The representative of WHO spoke of the importance of environmental monitoring as it related to human health. He expressed satisfaction with the progress in GEMS and noted that many of the activities described in the human health section of the monitoring programme were already receiving support from a number of member States.

216. The representative of WMO said that, while it might be true that the most advanced element of the GEMS programme was the climatological/meteorological one, that was no reason to relax efforts in that important area. He welcomed the proposal that UNEP convene an interdisciplinary meeting on threats to the ozone layer; WMO would be pleased to take part, although it might be premature to convene the meeting in 1976. Understanding about weather modification was still so scant that it would be premature to consider the international legal implications. On climatic change, the expert panel meeting held in March 1976, had concluded that the most important threat to the earth's climatic régime arising from man's activities was the anticipated increase of several hundred per cent in carbon dioxide by the end of the next century, as a result of burning fossil fuels; that could have a major impact on climate. The panel had recommended that, with UNEP support, WMO should convene a scientific workshop to consider how to model the impact of CO₂ on the world's climate; it had also recommended that attention be focused on the relationship between climate and sea ice. Because of the importance of the subject WMO would soon issue a statement on the panel's conclusions.

217. At the conclusion of its debate on Earthwatch, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council draft decisions on Earthwatch, submitted by the delegation of the United States of America, sulphur dioxide and other pollutants, submitted by the delegations of Finland and Sweden, and study of the ozone layer, submitted by the delegation of the United States of America. The Committee agreed to include its further recommendations regarding "Earthwatch" in the general draft decision on programme and Fund programme activities (see para. 238 below).

Action by the Governing Council

218. At its 57th meeting, on 13 April 1976, the Council adopted by consensus the three draft decisions recommended by Sessional Committee I (decisions 63 (IV), 64 (IV) and 65 (IV), respectively). 20/

(b) Environmental management

219. There were few interventions related specifically to the functional task of environmental management. However, many delegations, in making interventions on other parts of the programme, spoke of the relevance of environmental research, assessment and monitoring in the areas of terrestrial ecosystems, human settlements, health, GEMS and outer limits to the ultimate goal of enabling planners and decision makers to plan wisely and make sound decisions about the management of the environment. One delegation specifically drew attention to the importance of Earthwatch, which provided information relevant to making choices about environmental management.

220. The Committee agreed to include its recommendations regarding "Environmental management" in the general draft decision on programme and Fund programme activities (see para. 238 below).

221. For the action by the Governing Council in this respect, see paragraph 239 below.

(c) Environmental law

222. The special role of UNEP in the field of environmental law, and the priority given to the area, were generally appreciated. As one delegation pointed out, the widening interest in environmental matters and the need to apply environmental management made environmental law a matter of growing concern to States, individually and collectively, and hence to UNEP. It was important to develop national and international legislation in the environment field further, and to harmonize them.

223. One delegation stated its conviction that in the field of environmental law it was necessary, for the sake of efficiency, to stimulate and develop the study of basic definitions, general concepts and principles, since without a clear idea of them, it was very difficult to achieve adequate application in the field of conventions and legislation.

224. The limited response of Governments to Governing Council decision 24 (III) of 30 April 1975, regarding the need for States to consider becoming parties to international conventions and protocols on the environment, was regretted, and one delegation suggested that the secretariat increase its efforts to encourage States to become parties to such conventions. Several delegations specifically referred to the importance of more States ratifying the 1969 Amendments to the International

20/ Idem.

Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, 1954, 21/ while awaiting the ratification of the International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships of 2 November 1973. 22/

225. The report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC/61/Add.2 and Corr.1 and 2) was considered useful, and it was recommended that Governments should co-operate in improving and updating it. With regard to the proposal to establish a register of international conventions and agreements in the field of environment (UNEP/GC/61, para. 324), some delegations pointed out the need to co-ordinate efforts and not duplicate work already being done by others, particularly by IUCN.

226. One delegation suggested that the proposed expert meeting on State responsibility for environmental damage (UNEP/GC/61, para. 327) should only undertake a study on the conditions for compensation for damage in specific instances, and not draft general principles, considering the difficulties of such an enterprise in a field where the approach had always been sectoral. The same delegation also felt that the proposal should only be considered by the Governing Council at its fifth session, after the results of the intergovernmental Working Group on the Conservation and Harmonious Exploitation of Natural Resources Shared by Two or More States were available, and after formal contacts had been made with the International Law Commission. One delegation said it hoped that there would be no conflict between the expert meeting and the Working Group. Some delegations, however, endorsed the proposal for an expert group; one suggested that it should be intergovernmental, in view of the importance of the subject, while another said that in view of a number of recent studies and reports, it was now timely to develop a new body of international environmental law.

227. One delegation doubted the feasibility of a draft international convention or declaration on the integrity of national parks and reserves (UNEP/GC/61, para. 330); further explanation was requested. Two delegations said priority should be given to technical assistance to developing countries; one felt it should have a higher priority than regional seminars, which would be limited in effectiveness owing to differences in legal systems and basic legislation.

228. The Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council draft decisions on environmental law, submitted by the delegations of Ghana, Poland, Switzerland and Uruguay, and on the status of conventions, submitted by the delegation of the United Kingdom. The representatives of Brazil, China and Venezuela stated that, in the event of a vote on the second of the two draft decisions, their delegations would have abstained.

21/ Done at London on 21 October 1969. See International Legal Materials, vol. 9, p. 1, 1970. For the text of the Convention, see United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 327, No. 4714, p. 3.

22/ ST/LEG/SER.B/18/Add.2, p. 318.

Action by the Governing Council

229. At its 57th meeting, on 13 April 1976, the Council adopted without a vote the two draft decisions recommended by Sessional Committee I (decisions 66 (IV) and 67 (IV), respectively). 23/

(d) Supporting measures

(i) Information

230. One delegation proposed that UNEP should carry out motivational research related to particular target audiences, the message to be directed to those audiences and the means of maximizing the public impact of information about the environment, and called for regionalization of information activities to improve co-ordination with Governments and to permit more effective exercise of the catalytic role in respect of information.

231. Another delegation underlined the need for public understanding in order to achieve environmental objectives. The present strategy was too diffuse; efforts should be more sharply focused on specific target audiences. More information should be disseminated through existing channels and key individuals; a wider distribution of press releases was preferable to holding media seminars, and Governments should be encouraged to redisseminate information provided by UNEP. One speaker, emphasizing that his Government wished UNEP to become better known, proposed that the information activities of the programme should be evaluated.

(ii) Education and training

232. One speaker approved the high level of expenditure on education and training, but said his delegation would appreciate more information on projects and their costs, and would also like to know what activities were accomplished through collaboration with UNESCO. He warned of the danger of dissipating funds and was joined by another representative in recommending an evaluation of those activities. The need to concentrate more effort in the area of education and training on the problems of environmental degradation and deterioration owing to inappropriate development was noted. Until Governments had adopted the principles contained in the Belgrade Charter, they should not be used as the philosophical basis for work by UNEP in the field of environmental education.

233. One speaker expressed the conviction that environmental education should be given at all levels of education, primary, secondary and university and professional, through all the mass media. He also pointed out that it should be integrated with general education, and not treated only as an independent and isolated subject.

234. The representative of UNESCO underlined the importance of environmental education and training. To avoid confusion and amateurism, the subject should be approached systematically, and he therefore agreed with the identification by the Environment Co-ordination Board of three levels of education and training:

23/ For the text of the decisions, see annex I below.

(a) General environmental education, involving schools and universities. That was the national responsibility of education ministries, and within the competence of UNESCO at the international level. The UNESCO/UNEP environmental education programme dealt with the subject at the global level, and existing regional structures, especially those of UNESCO, should apply the policies at a regional level;

(b) Alerting certain professional groups, such as engineers, architects and decision-makers, to environmental issues;

(c) Training of specialists, such as ecologists and foresters.

At the Belgrade workshop there might have been some confusion between the three levels, but that should be clarified in the course of the regional meetings preparatory to the conference to be held at Tbilisi in 1977, which would focus principally on general environmental education. UNESCO would co-operate with UNEP in the evaluation of the programme for general environmental education. The representative of UNESCO added that the ILO had a direct responsibility for the environmental education and training of managers, trade union leaders and specialists in work safety.

(iii) Technical assistance

235. One speaker suggested that technical assistance should respond to needs at the global and regional levels. He hoped that the Technical Assistance Clearing-House would soon be fully operative and noted that it would be so only with maximum participation by Governments, particularly those which had established environmental ministries. He also hoped that UNEP would provide appropriate information of practical value to countries asking for assistance, and proposed that the regional advisory teams be employed in support of that purpose. Another speaker said that the results of study tours could have greater impact if they were broadly distributed.

236. At the conclusion of its debate on "Supporting measures", the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council a draft decision suggested by the Chairman on technical assistance and training. The Committee agreed to include its additional recommendations regarding "Supporting measures" in the general draft decision on programme and Fund programme activities (see para. 238 below).

Action by the Governing Council

237. At its 57th meeting, on 13 April 1976, the Council adopted by consensus the draft decision recommended by Sessional Committee I (decision 68 (IV)). ^{24/} For other action by the Governing Council on the Committee's recommendations regarding "Supporting measures", see paragraph 239 below.

^{24/} For the text of the decision, see annex I below.

3. General action regarding programme and Fund programme activities

238. At the conclusion of its debate on programme and Fund programme activities, as a whole, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council draft decision, suggested by the Chairman, on programme and Fund programme activities. After being informed of the debate in a draft decision recommended by Sessional Committee II regarding the over-all level of Fund programme activities for 1976-1977 (see chap. VIII, sect. B, below and annex I, decision 76 B (IV)), the Committee also recommended for adoption by the Governing Council draft decisions on management of Fund programme activities, submitted by the delegation of Belgium, and on allocation of resources for Fund programme activities, suggested by the Chairman. A number of delegations, in supporting the draft decision on management of Fund programme activities, emphasized that the items listed in paragraph 1 should not be read as indicating an order of priority. Furthermore, the criteria listed in the decision were not intended to be permanent, but were a response to the current financial situation in the Fund; the decision would need to be kept under continuing review and amended when the financial situation improved.

Action by the Governing Council

239. At its 57th meeting, on 13 April 1976, the Council adopted by consensus the three draft decisions recommended by Sessional Committee I (décisions 50 (IV), 69 (IV) and 70 (IV), respectively). 25/

25/ For the text of the decisions, see annex I below.

CHAPTER IV

HABITAT: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

240. The Governing Council considered agenda item 8 at its 48th and 49th meetings, on 5 April 1976. The Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference together with a note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC/63).

241. The Executive Director made a statement in which he introduced some amendments to, and gave some brief explanations about, his covering note for the document before the Governing Council.

242. The Secretary-General of the Habitat Conference, in an introductory statement, said that the Conference would in his view be the most important plenipotentiary conference ever held under United Nations auspices. All Governments recognized the need for seeking solutions to the urgent problems many countries faced in the field of human settlements, as was evidenced by the high level of government representation at both the preparatory committee and the regional preparatory meetings for the conference held so far and by the practical and positive approach adopted at those meetings. Substantial agreement had been reached there on three basic policy documents which would be submitted to the Conference: the declaration of principles, the recommendations for national action and the programme for international co-operation. The Habitat Conference would mark the beginning of a new era in the development of international and many national programmes on human settlements. It should be noted in that connexion that while most improvement efforts in the field of human settlements would have to be made at the national level, international co-operation and assistance could play a major role in strengthening those efforts. Hence the question of the institutional arrangements for human settlements within the United Nations system was an important issue.

243. At the recent informal consultations, he had received invaluable advice on the best way to proceed in the remaining eight weeks before the Conference. Fortunately, there was a general consensus among countries concerning the basic criteria that should govern future international action in the field of human settlements; the points for discussion were few and well defined. They would have to be further explored by the Conference, whose recommendations would be reviewed at a later stage by the Economic and Social Council and by the General Assembly.

244. Some 120 countries and 11 international organizations would participate in the audio-visual programme of the Conference, for the development and implementation of which the technical and financial assistance of UNEP had been most valuable. In intensifying the public information programme for the Conference, his secretariat would in particular make every effort to obtain governmental co-operation to ensure the success of the in situ urban traffic-free zone demonstration project.

245. The representative of the host country for the Conference, Canada, noted that Habitat and UNEP had a common origin in the Stockholm Conference and that human settlements had been and continued to be a priority concern of UNEP. Since January 1976, interest in the Conference had increased markedly. The vast majority of nations, as well as business, the professions and community groups, would be

represented at Vancouver. In addition, 1,500 representatives of the media were expected, as well as a large number of non-governmental organizations. Virtually all aspects of Canadian preparations for the Conference were on schedule.

246. In the view of the Canadian Government, Habitat could and should be the most significant United Nations conference of the 1970s. The decisions which Governments would have to reach at Vancouver would be difficult and challenging ones, but should reflect the fact that whatever economic difficulties they faced were not permanent and should not be considered as major obstacles to the formulation of policies which were essentially of a long-term nature. If the "outer limits" of the planet were not to be overstepped, care would have to be taken to build "conservation settlements", which would have a minimum impact on the planet's environment. Also, Habitat might provide the United Nations, about whose effectiveness and relevance scepticism had recently grown, with a unique opportunity for achieving a resounding success.

247. The Canadian Government generally shared the proposals on objectives, functions and criteria put forward by the Secretary-General of the Conference on the question of the institutional arrangements for human settlements in the United Nations system. It was aware, however, that differences still existed among Governments on the matter, and therefore felt it essential that Governments should come quickly to some accommodation on the issue, so that the Conference itself would not become overly preoccupied with it.

248. The representative of Canada noted that the audio-visual component of Habitat was universally regarded as a unique new element in international conferences whose impact and long-term usefulness should not be lost. With a view to ensuring prompt and maximum use of the audio-visual material collected for the Conference, the Canadian Government proposed that advantage be taken of an offer from a Canadian institution to provide for immediate follow-up activities, on the understanding that the necessary contractual arrangements would be negotiated with a designated United Nations agency. The Canadian institution concerned was prepared to provide the necessary technical, managerial and financial capability as well as the necessary physical plant.

249. In the ensuing debate, delegations commended the Secretary-General of Habitat for the Conference preparations and for the quality of the progress report before them. They also recognized that UNEP had been instrumental in ensuring the success of those preparations, and that units of the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system had also made significant contributions to them. One delegation said that in view of the important role of UNEP in relation not only to the Habitat Conference, but also to UNHHSF, the time allocated for discussion of the relevant agenda items by the Governing Council was insufficient. It was generally felt that the Conference would increase the interest in and awareness of the problems of human settlements and their possible solutions, and provide guidelines for the preparation and implementation of the relevant national, regional and international action programmes. There was general agreement that Governments would respond positively to the challenge before them and would make significant recommendations for tackling the manifold problems of human settlements which affected both developed and developing countries.

250. A number of delegations stressed the national and regional dimension of human settlements programmes, and emphasized in that connexion that any institutional follow-up to the Habitat Conference would have to be carefully co-ordinated with the regional commissions.

251. While most delegations recognized that human settlements were an integral part of the global environment and that UNEP, which had played an active and useful role in relation to them, would be called upon to continue to do so whatever the outcome of the Habitat Conference, they were of the view that it was not for the Governing Council to discuss the question of institutional arrangements for human settlements in the United Nations system, since the question properly fell within the purview of the Conference itself. It was generally agreed that the Governing Council should not take any decision or engage in any action which would in any way prejudice the outcome of the Conference or would limit the freedom of participating Governments to resolve the question of institutional arrangements as they saw fit.

252. One delegation supported the idea of convening a short special session of the Governing Council after the Habitat Conference in order that in its review of institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation, required for submission to the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, it might take into account the implications of the recommendations adopted by the Conference.

253. Most representatives expressed the opinion that there was no need for a wholly new institution in the United Nations system to deal specifically with problems of human settlements, but that a new institutional framework would have to be found with a view to achieving consolidation of major activities and thus arriving at more efficient policy and programme co-ordination in that area. While a number of delegations expressed a preference for either alternative A or alternative B presented by the Secretary-General of the Conference, several added that the alternatives left room for improvement and needed to be further discussed. A few delegations felt that the basic problem was to find a more precise definition of the respective roles and functions of the various institutions, bodies and units of the United Nations system involved in human settlements. The representatives of Mexico and Austria stated that their Governments were prepared to act as host for whatever institutional entity might be established as a result of the Habitat Conference to deal with human settlements. The delegation of Kenya, on the other hand, maintained that, since UNEP was the United Nations organ charged with responsibility for the human environment, which included human settlements, any such institutional entity should be located at UNEP headquarters.

254. Several delegations stressed the need to retain the momentum developed during the preparatory process, and therefore to ensure immediate follow-up activities as recommended by the Conference.

255. While some delegations had no quarrel with the proposal (UNEP/GC/63, paras. 53-58) that UNEP fund the establishment of a small team of professionals to be responsible, on an interim basis, for certain follow-up activities, several delegations pointed out that, should such a team be established, it should not be taken in any way as prejudging the recommendations made by the Conference regarding institutional arrangements. With that understanding, some delegations endorsed the proposal to set up the team, whereas others felt it would be inappropriate for the Governing Council to take such a decision. One delegation felt that, if the team was established, it should answer directly to the Executive Director of UNEP.

In the view of another delegation, the team should not be considered as a substitute for permanent institutional follow-up to the Conference, and its mandate should be considered in that light; moreover, the team should co-operate closely with UNEP and the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, and should survive only until the new institutional arrangements came into being. Another delegation said that financing for the team should be discussed within the framework of the regular budgetary process of the United Nations, and that any corresponding costs should not be borne by the Fund of UNEP. Several delegations were of the view that the functions for the team as outlined in paragraph 54 of the progress report should be reviewed carefully and kept to a minimum in order not to prejudge the recommendations which might be made at Vancouver regarding follow-up to the Conference.

256. There was general agreement that preparations should be made for an immediate follow-up to the audio-visual programme of the Conference, should the Conference recommend such an activity. Most delegations supported the idea that UNEP should allocate funds for that purpose, and some delegations also felt that some funds should be earmarked for the immediate dissemination of information on the Conference. Several delegations also supported a proposal that the Executive Director should be authorized to allocate funds for the extension of contracts of members of the Habitat secretariat dealing with the audio-visual programme. Many delegations welcomed the proposal by the Government of Canada that a Canadian institution should assume responsibility on an interim basis for the activities to be launched as a follow-up to the audio-visual programme. One delegation, however, was of the view that the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning could perform that function. It was generally agreed that the Governing Council, as the sponsoring organization for the Conference, could properly make a recommendation on the matter.

257. Several delegations commended the idea of in situ urban demonstrations in which up to 1,500 cities around the world would be invited to create traffic-free zones in downtown areas on World Environment Day, 5 June 1976. Some delegations outlined additional activities which would be carried out in their countries on that day. A few delegations were not convinced that the traffic-free zone project was the best way to celebrate World Environment Day, and one said it would have preferred Governments to be encouraged to celebrate World Environment Day as they saw fit.

258. The representative of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania pointed out that the questions of human settlement had great relevance to the present living conditions of the African population of his country. The Government of South Africa was brutally enforcing a policy of separate development aimed at fragmenting the country into small pieces of land and dividing the African people into ethnic groupings, thus leading to the creation of ghettos. He called upon the Governing Council to condemn that policy.

Action by the Governing Council

259. At its 54th meeting, on 9 April 1976, the Governing Council adopted by consensus a draft decision suggested by the President, as amended orally by the delegation of Kenya (decision 71 (IV)), 26/

26/ For the text of the decision, see annex I below.

CHAPTER V

UNITED NATIONS HABITAT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS FOUNDATION

A. Progress report

260. The Governing Council considered agenda item 9 (a) at its 48th, 49th and 50th meetings, on 5 and 6 April 1976. The Council had before it a report of the Executive Director on progress made in the implementation of the plan and programme of operations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UNEP/GC/65).

261. The Executive Director, in a brief introductory statement, reviewed developments which had occurred since the preparation of the progress report and mentioned in particular requests for the Foundation's assistance which had been received from various countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

262. Several delegations stressed that UNHHSF should play a major role in facilitating the improvement of human settlements in developing countries. All efforts should be made to ensure that the Foundation would become fully operational as rapidly as possible, and it was to be hoped that the importance of its objectives would be understood by all, so that it could obtain the support, especially financial, which it needed and deserved.

263. In the view of one delegation, it was imperative that all Governments fully understand the urgent need to eradicate mass poverty and provide shelter for the dispossessed masses of the world. Governments should honour their obligation to support the Foundation, which must be seen as a dynamic instrument to implement change within the framework of the new international economic order. Continued controversy over the Foundation would only ensure its stagnation, create division in the international community and undermine the solidarity of the third world. While recognizing that human settlements should continue to be regarded as an integral part of the human environment, the same delegation felt that a greater degree of autonomy should be granted to the Foundation in its relationship to UNEP, and requested that its views be submitted to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat.

264. Some delegations stated, however, that further development of the Foundation should await the decisions on the recommendations which would be made at the Habitat Conference regarding the question of institutional arrangements for human settlements, and that a most cautious course of action was therefore in order with regard to further expansion of the Foundation's programme activities. In the view of one delegation, the Governing Council should postpone its decisions regarding, for instance, the general procedures for the Foundation and the proposals to recruit in 1976 one half of the staff required for the Foundation and to hold a meeting of its Advisory Board in May or June of that year.

265. One delegation expressed the hope that the situation of the Foundation would improve once the financial and economic difficulties currently experienced by many

countries were solved and a clearer picture of the role of the Foundation had emerged from the discussion by the Conference of institutional arrangements.

266. The representatives of Jamaica, Kenya and Kuwait said that their Governments would respectively contribute \$20,000, Kshs. 60,000/- and \$50,000 to the Foundation. The representatives of Ghana, the Libyan Arab Republic and the Sudan said that their Governments would announce their contribution in due course. The representative of the Philippines said that her Government's contribution would be announced in person by Mrs. Marcos on the occasion of the forthcoming meeting of the Advisory Board of the Foundation.

267. Two delegations took the view that the present expenditure pattern of the Foundation was not satisfactory, in that overhead and administrative costs seemed to be too high in relation to programme expenditures. Another delegation stressed that the expenditure pattern of UNEP itself did not sufficiently reflect the high priority which was to be attached to the whole question of human settlements.

268. Two representatives felt that the quality of the prospectus prepared by UNEP which described the structure and the aims of the Foundation was not satisfactory: it did not, in particular, contain the type of information which might attract the support the Foundation needed. In their view, such a prospectus should emphasize the innovative approach of the Foundation to human settlements problems and describe, along with the financial aspects of its role, the various other channels through which the Foundation's activities could be supported, including the provision of technical know-how by countries which could not contribute funds. UNEP should also explore any means at its disposal to ensure a better understanding of the Foundation's uniqueness and elicit the necessary support for it. In reply, the Executive Director pointed out that UNEP had initiated certain measures to that end, including requesting five distinguished ladies, in their personal capacity, to use their good offices and exercise their influence in promoting Governments' financial support for the Foundation.

269. The Executive Director also informed the Governing Council that in appointing the present members of the Advisory Board his predecessor, Mr. Maurice F. Strong, and he himself had taken into account the need for a broad geographical balance of the membership. In addition to the eight members thus far appointed, a Senior Adviser from the World Bank and the Director of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning would be participating in the meetings of the Board in their personal capacities until the nature of the participation of United Nations bodies in the Board had been agreed on. He also informed the Council that he was preparing to convene the first session of the Board on 5 and 6 May 1976 to review all the activities of the Foundation up to that date.

Action by the Governing Council

270. At its 56th meeting, on 13 April 1976, the Governing Council adopted by consensus a draft decision, suggested by the President on the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (decision 72 (IV), sect. I). 27/

271. The representative of Iraq, commenting on the decision, said that in his

27/ Idem.

Government's view contributions to the Foundation should be on an assessed basis, not voluntary. His delegation reserved the right to raise the issue again at the fifth session of the Governing Council.

B. Procedural and budgetary matters

272. Agenda items 9 (a) and (b) were referred to Sessional Committee II. The Committee had before it a note by the Executive Director containing the provisional general procedures governing the operations of the Foundation (UNEP/GC/66 and Corr.1), with an addendum relating to the administrative arrangements regarding the Foundation; the budget report on the Foundation for 1976-1977 (UNEP/GC/64); and a note by the Executive Director transmitting the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions regarding the provisional general procedures (UNEP/GC/L.34).

1. Provisional general procedures governing the operations of the Foundation

273. Introducing agenda item 9 (b), the Acting Deputy Executive Director noted that the Executive Director had followed the wish of the General Assembly and the Governing Council to make the Foundation operational as soon as possible. There were two constraints on the Foundation: the first derived from the absence of final institutional arrangements, while the second was a financial constraint arising from the fact that voluntary contributions to the Foundation had not been forthcoming. It was because of those constraints that the Foundation staffing had been handled conservatively. The special nature of the Foundation required that it be staffed with highly qualified, technical people.

274. One delegation proposed an amendment to article I, "Definitions", and asked if accounts for Foundation funds would be reported to the General Assembly. Another delegation asked if it was indispensable for the Foundation to have as many as three funds. One representative stressed the importance of rural settlements in view of the fact that more than 60 per cent of the world's population, especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America, lived in villages. He also emphasized the catalytic role that the Foundation had to play, and stated that his Government was actively considering a contribution to the Foundation.

275. The Acting Deputy Executive Director noted that the financial rules were presented to the Governing Council for information only and that they might be revised before presentation to the General Assembly. The Chief, Office of Policy Planning and External Relations of the Foundation, explained the purpose of the three funds and noted the possibility of transfer of funds between the grant fund and the special fund. The investment fund had a different nature, and liabilities of the other two funds could not be charged to the investment fund. He also said that all United Nations funds were in the custody of the Secretary-General. Budgeting and auditing procedures of the Foundation funds were the same as for other United Nations funds; the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Board of Auditors would be fully involved in the process.

276. One delegation noted that it had a different concept of Foundation operations than that apparently held by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. It believed that the Foundation should operate more

autonomously than the Advisory Committee seemed to envisage, and wondered if there ought to be a delegation of authority from the Executive Director to the Administrator of the Foundation. The procedures could perhaps be approved provisionally and reviewed by the Governing Council at its fifth session, in the light of the outcome of the forthcoming Habitat Conference, discussions with the Advisory Committee, and the experience gained in the coming year. The delegation reserved its position on the financial rules of the Foundation, pending their presentation to the General Assembly. The proposal regarding provisional adoption was supported by other delegations.

277. Another delegation thought that the draft decision should take account of the comments of the Advisory Committee relating to Foundation administration. Some delegations opposed that proposal; one said that the General Assembly was not compelled to accept recommendations of the Advisory Committee. Another delegation said that since the Assembly had decided that the Executive Director had responsibility for the administration of the Foundation, that subject should not be discussed by the Governing Council. The Acting Deputy Executive Director noted the history of the Foundation's creation, including an instruction from the General Assembly to the Executive Director to prepare a plan and programme of operations for submission to the Governing Council at its third session. The Council had, by decision 38 (III) of 24 April 1975, approved the plan and programme of operations (UNEP/GC/36), which included provision for the post of Administrator of the Foundation. He felt that the secretariat had perhaps failed to provide all relevant background information on the general procedures to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and noted that the matter had been handled through correspondence.

278. One delegation, supported by several others, proposed that a decision should be postponed until the fifth session of the Governing Council, so any changes which the Habitat Conference might propose in the institutional arrangements could be taken into account. Other delegations believed that provisional adoption would be a good idea, in view of the forthcoming Conference, and that it was premature to approve now a set of rules which might be changed later.

279. Several delegations opposed the proposal to postpone consideration of the general procedures and equally opposed their provisional adoption. One delegation stated that, whatever the recommendation of the Habitat Conference, a General Assembly decision could not be overruled. Another delegation stated that the decision should not be deferred, noting that any decision taken now could be amended later. Another delegation said that if a special session of the Governing Council was held after the Conference, it could consider the general procedures, among other questions.

280. One delegation proposed amendments to articles II and III of the general procedures, to the effect that section 2 should take account of the new international economic order and should also contain a reference to the least developed land-locked countries, and that the provisions of section 5 relating to geographical distribution should be refined. Some delegations opposed the amendment regarding the least developed land-locked countries on the grounds that all developing countries had problems which could be addressed by the Foundation, and if one specific group of developing countries was cited, others might also insist on being included.

281. One delegation said that, in view of the description of functions of the

Administrator, the grading of the post should be at a lower level than Assistant Secretary-General.

282. The Acting Deputy Executive Director said that the Executive Director was ultimately responsible to the Governing Council for Foundation operations. The level of the post of Administrator of the Foundation had been approved by the Governing Council at its third session. It was clear from the plan and programme of operations of the Foundation that the Executive Director was to give special consideration to those countries where there was clear indication of greater need. He further reminded the Committee that the Governing Council had the possibility to review and revise the general procedures at any time. The Executive Director would prefer to avoid any appearance of a pause or hesitation in the Foundation's activities.

283. At the conclusion of its debate on item 9 (a), the Committee recommended a draft decision on the general procedures for adoption by the Governing Council.

Action by the Governing Council

284. At its 55th plenary meeting, on 12 April 1976, the Council adopted by consensus the draft decision recommended by Sessional Committee II (decision 72 (IV), sect. II). 28/

2. Budget report on the Foundation, 1975-1977

285. The Chief, Office of Policy Planning and External Relations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, introducing document UNEP/GC/64, indicated that table 1 showed the costs of the full complement of staff as set out in the manning table approved by the Governing Council at its third session. One delegation stated that it shared the hope expressed by the Executive Director that lack of voluntary contributions would not continue to constrain the operation of the Foundation. Another delegation requested information on the number and composition of the staff of the Foundation, as well as supplementary information on the projects that were being considered by the Foundation; it expressed the hope that such projects would be of good quality and consistent with the possible institutional arrangements that might result from the Habitat Conference, and requested information on actual expenditures in 1975 against the allocation of \$600,000 from the Fund of UNEP. One delegation stated that pending the outcome of the Habitat Conference, the staff of the Foundation should be kept at a minimum. Another delegation agreed with that view and pointed out that expenditure planned during 1976 on staff costs of the Foundation, at only half its envisaged strength, amounted to more than one quarter of the total funds available for the four-year period 1975-1978; expenditure on staffing therefore appeared excessive in relation to a programme level of only \$1 million.

286. In reply, the Acting Deputy Executive Director said that the Executive Director intended to maintain the staff of the Foundation at a minimum level and that, as the activities of the Foundation increased, additional staff would be recruited within the limits of the manning table approved by the Council at its

28/ Idem.

third session. In that way a larger proportion of existing resources would be used for the programme of activities pending receipt of voluntary contributions. A high quality nucleus staff was in his view an essential prerequisite to commencement of sound Foundation operations. He also provided the Committee with information on some of the projects which would receive support from the Foundation and added that expenditures in 1975, as indicated in the financial report and accounts for 1975 (UNEP/GC/L.35), had reached \$308,000.

287. At the conclusion of its debate, the Committee recommended a draft decision on the budget of the Foundation for adoption by the Governing Council.

Action by the Governing Council

288. At its 55th meeting, on 12 April 1976, the Council adopted by consensus the draft decision recommended by Sessional Committee II (decision 72 (IV), sect. III). 29/

29/ Idem.

CHAPTER VI

CRITERIA GOVERNING MULTILATERAL FINANCING OF HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

289. The Governing Council considered agenda item 16 A at its 50th meeting, on 6 April 1976. The Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General on criteria governing multilateral financing of housing and human settlements (A/10225), and a note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC/78).

290. In an introductory statement, the Executive Director indicated that the report was being submitted to the Governing Council pursuant to a decision adopted by the General Assembly at its 2432nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 1975, requesting the Secretary-General, in view of the late circulation of the report, to refer it to the relevant organs of the United Nations, including the Governing Council, with the request that they submit their comments to the Assembly at its thirty-first session through the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-first session.

291. The Director of the United Nations Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, introducing the report of the Secretary-General, said its main conclusion was that greater investment in housing and human settlements, by both national and international agencies, could make a substantial contribution to over-all economic and social development, not only because of the enormous unmet needs in that sector but also because of the potential of such investments for yielding a variety of additional benefits in terms of increased total employment, production and income. While multilateral assistance could play only a limited role, it could and should be increased in several areas where it could have a critical catalytic effect. Much of that increased assistance should be made available as outright grants or on concessionary terms, flexibly related to a country's balance-of-payments situation, income level and other indicators of its need for assistance and its future ability to repay loans. Such assistance should be concentrated on programmes where it could have the greatest possible leverage, by making maximum use of the country's own labour, natural resources and domestic financial resources and by promoting a fair distribution of the benefits among different income groups. It would also be most helpful if countries themselves would reaffirm their priorities for that sector in their negotiations with multilateral finance agencies and international forums such as Habitat.

292. Delegations generally noted that the report of the Secretary-General contained useful information on the needs and possibilities for action by multilateral finance agencies and the rest of the international community with regard to the financing of housing and human settlements. One representative felt that apart from the questions covered in the report, there was a need to consider issues related to feasibility, including the rate of capital return and the size of capital finance required for human settlements. Those issues were of crucial importance in countries where the majority of the population lived in rural areas and where urban dwellers were mostly low-income groups: in such cases, the size of the need alone made it difficult for planners to give it priority, especially in view of the need for optimum allocation of scarce resources. Moreover, the

difficulties involved in absorbing and servicing the very large amount of loans involved deterred any large-scale direct investments in the sector as a matter of priority.

293. Two delegations shared the view that the above problems, as well as those analysed in the report, had resulted in a situation whereby investments in the human settlements sector had tended to benefit the high- and medium-income strata of society, to the increasing disadvantage of urban low-income groups and the rural population. In their view, that situation could be greatly improved through the financing of basic services and public infrastructure around which better settlements could be developed, particularly in rural areas. It was felt in that connexion that international assistance should take the form of concessionary loans and outright grants, since loans based on economic criteria might not lead to improved human settlements conditions where they were most needed.

294. One delegation requested that the Executive Director of UNEP recommend to the Secretary-General of Habitat that the report should be made available to the participants in the Habitat Conference.

295. One delegation pointed out that the lack of a national policy in the human settlements sector made it difficult for some countries to define meaningful objectives and determine priorities in the field. The same lack of a clearly defined policy was evident in the multilateral financing system, and resulted in spending on research, studies and documentation without direct project implementation leading to capital formation in the recipient countries.

296. One delegation endorsed the recommendation contained in paragraph 163 of the report, to the effect that UNHHSF should collaborate with existing multilateral finance agencies in monitoring and evaluating the total international flow of funds for housing and human settlements, and offered to assist the Foundation in the implementation of such a project.

297. Another delegation stated that the major recommendations reached at the interregional seminar on low-cost technology, mentioned on page 44 of the report, were of particular importance, since any multilateral system for financing human settlements could be effective only if it was closely related to actions taken at the national level.

Action by the Governing Council

298. At its 50th meeting, on 6 April 1976, the Council agreed, at the suggestion of the President, to take note of the documents before it under item 16 A and to request the Executive Director to convey its comments thereon to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, as the relevant part of its report. 30/

30/. See annex I below, "Other decisions".

CHAPTER VII

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION: PROGRESS REPORT

299. In its capacity as the intergovernmental preparatory body for the United Nations Conference on Desertification, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3511 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, the Governing Council considered agenda item 10 at its 53rd and 54th plenary meetings on 8 and 9 April 1976. It had before it the progress report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC/67), the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference (UNEP/GC/67/Add.1), the draft provisional annotated agenda (UNEP/GC/67/Add.2 and Corr.1) and a precise accounting of the 1975 allocation and detailed plan of expenditure for 1976-1977 (UNEP/GC/67/Add.3).

300. Introducing his report, the Executive Director described the preparations for the Conference to be held from 29 August to 9 September 1977, primary responsibility for the preparations of which had been vested in him by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3337 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974.

301. The preparatory activities included four interrelated global component reviews on climate and desert, ecological change, demographic, social and behavioural aspects, and desert technology, together with an overview presentation of them. The outlines of these studies contained in the progress report had now been developed substantially. The Executive Director described the preparations for the six case studies being carried out with UNDP assistance under the auspices of UNESCO, and the associated case studies being undertaken by Governments, and announced his understanding that the Government of China would also prepare a case study, thus increasing the total number to 11. The case studies, together with other studies and background papers, were designed to contribute to an understanding of the processes and causes of desertification.

302. The global map of desert-prone areas being made by UNESCO, FAO and WMO in response to the request of the General Assembly could not, because of its small scale, be expected to show such areas and the reasons for their vulnerability in every detail. While supplementary maps on a larger scale were being drawn for Africa north of the Equator and for the case studies and component reviews, a fully detailed world map would probably need presentation in the form of an atlas. Such a task might be considered as a part of future work, probably under the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

303. A succession of drafts of the Plan of Action would be circulated to Governments, as well as institutions and agencies concerned, well in advance of the regional consultations with Governments, most of which he expected to hold in late 1976 and the first quarter of 1977. Related to the Plan of Action were the feasibility studies of proposed transnational projects to combat desertification, which were to be prepared in consultation with the Governments concerned.

304. In presenting the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference, the Executive Director suggested that should there be no Secretary-General of the Conference, the references to him in the provisional draft rules should be replaced by "the Executive Director". Regarding the draft provisional annotated agenda, he made some suggestions for streamlining the procedural part of the agenda and for elaborating the annotations.

305. In conclusion, the Executive Director, in drawing attention to the financial arrangements, expressed his appreciation for the financial commitments made by the United Nations, UNDP and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in response to General Assembly resolutions 3337 (XXIX) and 3511 (XXX). He was also grateful to the panel of scientists and other senior consultants and the members of the ad hoc interagency task force who were assisting the secretariat of the Conference in its work. They included those responsible for the preparation of the major documents for the United Nations Water Conference, whose work was intimately linked with the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Desertification.

306. In welcoming the programme of preparations for the Conference, delegations generally emphasized the overriding need for all preparatory activity to be addressed to obtaining a clear awareness of the processes causing desertification and the specific measures that could be taken to arrest and, where possible, reverse them. While ensuring the high quality of scientific work, the papers for the Conference should be couched in terms that could readily be understood by participants, and the recommendations proposed for adoption should be of a kind that could be translated into immediate and effective action. Conference preparations should continue to draw increasingly on projects and programmes currently being carried out to arrest desertification including those of UNEP itself, which some speakers suggested should be accorded the same financial priority as the Conference itself. Several delegations stressed their Governments' interest in the Conference, but noted that their lack of direct experience in desertification matters naturally placed limitations on the role they could play. Others stressed that where such experience did exist, the secretariat should seek to draw on it, not only to reduce the possibility of duplication, but also to learn from the experience of those countries that had combated desertification successfully. The global approach to desertification was welcomed. Some participants, however, saw the Sudano-Sahelian zone as the main area of immediate concern and action. The dovetailing of preparations with those for the United Nations Water Conference was considered to be satisfactory.

307. Most delegations welcomed the arrangements for the four component reviews, and their being synthesized in an overview. Emphasis was placed on their interrelationships and the need for simplicity in presentation. One speaker pointed out that if, as part of the component review on demographic, social and behavioural aspects, questions of resettlement were to be considered, then close relations should be established with those concerned with human settlements. He also stated that in the desert technology review as well as in the Plan of Action, special consideration should be given to the role of "adaptive strategies". Another delegation pointed out that the role of fire should be discussed in the review of ecological change and perhaps elsewhere in the preparatory process.

308. It was generally considered that the case studies and the associated case studies were important as they, too, could contribute with the component reviews

to the Plan of Action. One delegation added that additional associated case studies would be welcomed. Some speakers saw the mapping of the areas involved on a large scale (for example, 1:125,000) as being most helpful in understanding the findings of the case studies.

309. General concern was expressed at the difficulty of preparing a global map which would show all desert-prone areas in detail. Nevertheless, several delegations expressed the hope that all maps would be as detailed as possible. The eventual preparation of an atlas could be considered for inclusion in the Plan of Action in the light of the experience gained in preparing the maps for the Conference.

310. A number of delegations noted that the outline of the Plan of Action contained in the progress report would be substantially modified. Most delegations emphasized the overriding need for a plan that would be the basis for a systematic and sustained attack on desertification. As such, it should be specific and, where feasible, include targets, phased in time and indicating priorities. While continuing supportive research, particularly to fill gaps in knowledge, should not be excluded, there was already considerable awareness of the nature and extent of the problems. What was needed, therefore, was the adaptation and application of what was already known. The Plan should be a rigorous and vigorous approach to arresting desertification, drawing on indigenous institutions and capability in the affected areas. One speaker added that the Plan should offer alternative strategies for combating desertification. It should also place emphasis on the education of peoples living in vulnerable ecosystems, and on the training of those responsible for carrying out programmes to improve the well-being of such peoples.

311. The selection of the feasibility studies for proposed transnational projects was generally supported, and some delegations expressed the wish to see them extended or replicated elsewhere. One speaker expressed the view that some of the feasibility studies might encounter difficulties and experience constraints, but that, in spite of those problems, a transnational approach to combating desertification could be technically appropriate and desirable. Another speaker suggested that the monitoring of desert processes should not unduly emphasize the role of satellite imagery to the exclusion of other approaches.

312. Support was expressed for the arrangements for regional meetings with Governments, and the Executive Director was requested to report on their outcome to the Governing Council at its fifth session. One delegation suggested that, as the tropical arid and semi-arid areas in Africa and the Sahelian arid and semi-arid areas formed an ecological whole, there should be one regional meeting for them, not two as proposed. Suggestions were also made that Cape Verde, Portugal and Spain should be invited to participate in an appropriate regional meeting, in view of their aridity problems. While it was recognized that the regional meetings were the principal occasions for intensive consultations with Governments at a formative stage in the preparations for the Conference, the wish was generally expressed that discussions, particularly with the Governments principally affected by, or with special experience of, desertification, should take place earlier.

313. There was widespread support for the training course proposed to be held on the occasion of the Conference, particularly if it were addressed to practical measures to arrest desertification, thus linking the course to the proposals contained in the Plan of Action. One delegation suggested that, depending on its degree of success, such courses could be repeated after the Conference under the auspices of UNEP.

314. The arrangements proposed for a bibliography of scientific papers on desertification and a directory of arid lands research institutes were noted.

315. Although one delegation considered that insufficient funds were being made available for the feasibility and case studies, the financial implications were generally found satisfactory. The hope was expressed however that, in exercising economy in the present period of financial stringency, the expenditures for certain items might be scaled down. It was noted that a precise accounting for the year 1976 would be presented to the Governing Council at its fifth session.

316. Some concern was expressed at what seemed, in the light of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3337 (XXIX), a heavy burden on the Fund of UNEP, which appeared to be carrying a major share of the total cost of Conference preparations. A more equitable burden-sharing was felt by a number of delegations to be appropriate.

317. The draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference were generally found acceptable. Several delegations agreed to the substitution of "the Executive Director" for "the Secretary-General of the Conference" wherever the latter phrase appeared in the draft provisional rules. Others saw the need for the appointment of a Secretary-General of the Conference, and some considered that that could best be effected by the Executive Director being so designated. The inclusion of Arabic as a language of the Conference was supported, subject to the normal procedures of the General Assembly. One delegation announced its intention of communicating to the secretariat, in writing, a number of minor drafting changes in the draft provisional rules of procedure.

318. The draft provisional agenda was supported, subject to items 2-6 (a) being included in one procedural item, and the annotations elaborated.

Action by the Governing Council

319. At its 57th meeting, on 13 April 1976, the Governing Council adopted by consensus a draft decision, suggested by the President, on the United Nations Conference on Desertification (decision 73 (IV)). 31/

31/ For the text of the decision, see annex I below.

CHAPTER VIII

MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

320. Agenda item 11 was referred to Sessional Committee II (for an account of the organization of the Committee's work, see para. 16 above).

A. Implementation of the Fund programme in 1975

1. Report on the implementation of the Fund programme in 1975

321. In considering item 11 (a), the Committee had before it the following documents: implementation of the Fund programme in 1975 (UNEP/GC/68 and Corr.1), with an addendum providing updated tables of contributions and listing projects approved between 1 January and 29 February 1976 and a further addendum dealing with the headquarters of UNEP and the construction of temporary premises; evaluation of Fund programme activities (UNEP/GC/83); and financial report and accounts of the Fund of UNEP for the year ended 31 December 1975 (UNEP/GC/L.35).

322. Introducing document UNEP/GC/68, the Acting Deputy Executive Director noted as achievements in 1975, in response to the requests of the Governing Council at its third session, a rapid growth in total expenditures, an increase in the average cost per project and an increase in the extent of concentration of activities within priority subject areas.

323. All members welcomed the progress recorded in 1975, and many expressed appreciation for the improved quality of documentation. One delegation expressed concern at the gap between the allocations approved by the third session of the Governing Council and actual expenditures. Several delegations expressed concern over the imbalance in the regional distribution of projects; one representative drew attention to the unsatisfactory position of the Asia and Pacific region in that respect and welcomed the establishment of the UNEP regional office at Bangkok, which he felt might assist in redressing the situation. While favouring the increase in the average cost per project, some delegations suggested that small projects could play an important role in the development of the programme. The Acting Deputy Executive Director stated that UNEP was trying to improve the regional balance in the distribution of projects. The gap between allocations and actual expenditures had sharply diminished in 1975, as compared with 1974, and the situation was expected to improve still further. He agreed that small projects would have continuing importance.

324. Several delegations stressed the importance of training national personnel in developing countries, and suggested that funds should be allocated for that purpose.

325. Appreciation was expressed for the detailed information on approved projects provided for the first time in the annex to document UNEP/GC/68. Some delegations

said that UNEP News and the Report to Governments also increased the information flow between UNEP and Governments. One delegation suggested that project descriptions could be expanded and standardized, and offered to make available to the secretariat a standard project description prepared by a meeting of the senior advisers to ECE Governments on environmental problems, which might prove helpful in that respect. Another suggested that final reports could be indexed and the index circulated to Governments. The Acting Deputy Executive Director agreed, and stated that a planned new series of UNEP information documents would facilitate improved provision of information from UNEP to Governments.

326. While improvements in the flow of information about UNEP activities were generally appreciated, some delegations noted that communication between UNEP and Governments was still inadequate. In that connexion, one member suggested that the use of the UNDP resident representatives as a link in the UNEP communication chain might impair information exchanges, and asked if Governments could communicate directly with UNEP. In reply, the Acting Deputy Executive Director expressed concern over the non-receipt by Governments of information sent to them, and promised that the matter would be investigated thoroughly. The role of UNDP resident representatives as UNEP representatives had been thoroughly discussed with senior UNDP officials, and they had been given a general briefing on their role as UNEP representatives in their country of assignment. In his view, the resident representatives were best placed to co-ordinate activities of the United Nations system at the country level. It was the prerogative of Governments to decide on the channels through which communications from UNEP should come; as to communications to UNEP, the secretariat wished them to come through the resident representatives or that copies should be addressed to them.

327. Some delegations asked about the criteria for selection of projects to be financed by UNEP; one delegation asked particularly what the criteria were for support by UNEP as compared with UNDP. Others stressed the need for project co-ordination both within UNEP and between UNEP and the specialized agencies. One delegation recalled the proposal made at the third session that the Executive Director should give consideration to the submission to the Governing Council, for its approval, of some projects, as provided for in the general procedures governing the operations of the Fund of UNEP. ^{32/} The acting Deputy Executive Director noted that the close relationship between environmental and developmental concerns sometimes made it difficult to make a clear dividing line between projects qualifying for support from UNEP and UNDP. Nevertheless, he felt that the Fund's mandate was sufficiently clear, and in practice no problems had come to his attention. Project proposals might arise from Governments, agencies, supporting organizations or UNEP itself. He agreed on the need for co-ordination both with UNEP and with the United Nations system, and stressed the role of the Environment Co-ordination Board in that respect.

328. In answer to one delegation which asked what was the percentage ratio between project expenditures and programme and programme support costs, the Acting Deputy Executive Director noted that the percentage of the allocation of funds for projects versus programme and programme support costs had increased markedly. However, the degree of effectiveness of UNEP could not be measured against the percentage, since the organization was not a mere funding agency. It would therefore

^{32/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/10025), para. 327.

not be proper to compare the size of the staff, which had many intellectual and co-ordinating functions not directly related to projects, to the level of expenditures on Fund programme activities.

329. One delegation asked if the linguistic characteristics of countries were considered in the selection of sites for pilot projects. The Chief, Programme Management Division, said that the results of most pilot projects were basically applicable to other countries, and the interests of all countries of a region would be taken into account through follow-up studies.

330. Another delegation commented that the percentage of projects under direct implementation still appeared too high. Many delegations raised the issue of the use of consultants, and one representative asked about the criteria for assigning consultants' costs to projects rather than to programme and programme support costs. Another asked whether UNEP was paying consultants on the basis of standard costs or actual costs. The importance of maintaining a balance in the nationalities of consultants was emphasized, and one delegation urged the secretariat to inform the competent national authorities of any intentions to retain the services of consultants from their countries. Another requested that the list or roster of consultants be made available to member Governments. The Acting Deputy Executive Director said that, because UNEP was a small secretariat, outside assistance in the form of consultants was sometimes required. Consultants who had been used thus far were those well known to UNEP, which admittedly led to some geographic imbalance; it would be appreciated if Governments would provide names of experts who could serve UNEP. Consultants were paid actual costs, which were charged to programme and programme support costs if the consultants were assisting the secretariat in its functions, and to Fund programme activities if their activities were directly related to the development of projects.

331. General satisfaction was expressed at the new system of remittances to agencies (UNEP/GC/68, para. 9), which conformed to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors. 33/ One delegation asked if the secretariat had studied the impact of the new system on projected expenditures for 1976 and 1977. Another asked if UNEP would extend the privilege of borrowing funds to UNDP. The Acting Deputy Executive Director said that the old procedure of showing cash remittances to agencies as expenditures was incorrect; furthermore, it led to agencies holding unnecessarily large cash balances of UNEP funds. In the closing months of 1975, UNEP did not remit cash to agencies which were holding balances, and agencies now held only enough cash to cover current requirements. That was a one-time change which would not affect the rate of expenditures to be recorded in 1976. The Secretary-General, as the custodian of UNEP and other funds, had certain authority concerning their temporary use by others; however, in the case of UNEP the question was theoretical in view of the Programme's financial situation.

332. One delegation asked if non-convertible currencies were included in statements of resources. The Acting Deputy Executive Director replied in the affirmative, explaining that the accounts were maintained in dollar equivalents; nevertheless it was necessary to be vigilant in that most important matter when considering the resources of the Fund. It was the intention of the Executive Director to utilize non-convertible currencies in ways consistent with Governing Council decisions, to ensure that their use would not distort the programme.

33/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 7F (A/10007/Add.6), chap. IV.

333. At the conclusion of its debate, the Sessional Committee recommended a draft decision on the implementation of the Fund programme in 1975 for adoption by the Governing Council.

2. Headquarters of UNEP and the construction of temporary premises

334. Introducing document UNEP/GC/68/Add.2, the Acting Deputy Executive Director noted that the temporary premises at Gigiri had been completed on time with a cost overrun of \$40,000, most of which had been offset by a devaluation of the Kenya shilling. The premises had begun to be occupied by other United Nations agencies in Nairobi; the United Nations Children's Fund was already installed and using common services with UNEP. He hoped the Governing Council would agree that rental income should be applied against the principal of the loan received from the Fund for construction of the temporary premises, thus permitting a slightly earlier amortization of the loan.

335. Many delegations congratulated the secretariat on its achievement in setting up its temporary headquarters so expeditiously and economically and expressed appreciation for the generous co-operation of the Government of Kenya in that regard. The representative of Kenya thanked delegations on behalf of his Government, and stated that it expected to continue to assist UNEP through the period of construction of its permanent headquarters.

336. At the conclusion of its debate, the Committee recommended a draft decision on the headquarters of UNEP and the construction of temporary premises for adoption by the Governing Council.

3. Evaluation of Fund programme activities

337. Introducing document UNEP/GC/83, the Acting Deputy Executive Director explained the purposes of the evaluation methodology for Fund programme activities. The Executive Director considered that evaluation was a joint exercise with co-operating agencies, and should cover all components in the project cycle from identification and formulation of the project through implementation and follow-up; he had decided to select a representative sample of projects to be evaluated as a first stage in the application of the methodology, and intended to report to Governments at subsequent sessions on the results of evaluation carried out in the previous year.

338. Many delegations welcomed the initiation of the evaluation methodology. Some delegations felt, however, that the methodology submitted to the Council was not sufficiently detailed and hoped that, through its application, practical experience could be gained which would allow the Executive Director to elaborate it and report on progress made in that regard at the subsequent sessions of the Council. One delegation indicated the need for the Council to review the methodology at its fifth session. The Acting Deputy Executive Director agreed that that should be done and said that the Executive Director intended to use the results of project evaluations as a management tool to improve the performance of the organization in the implementation of projects. It was important that in future, project documents should contain objectives that were clear, precise and where possible stated in measurable terms.

339. Many delegations expressed the opinion that only large and important projects should be the subject of intensive evaluation. One delegation suggested that where small projects were concerned, the Executive Director might wish to select a random sample for evaluation purposes.

340. A few delegations suggested that existing capabilities within the United Nations system should be utilized in carrying out evaluations. The possibility of using the Joint Inspection Unit was specifically mentioned. One delegation indicated however, that the Unit did not have sufficient resources at its disposal to accommodate such requests, and asked whether UNEP could finance the additional capacity required. Another delegation said that the Unit was more concerned with financial matters than with evaluation of the substantive components of projects. Several delegations stated that it would be preferable to use evaluation specialists to carry out evaluations; the Executive Director should give due consideration to utilizing consultants from developing countries for that purpose with the aim, inter alia, of strengthening the capability of developing countries to engage in that important activity in the context of technical co-operation among developing countries. In response, the Acting Deputy Executive Director said that intensive evaluation would be carried out primarily for large and important projects; however, small projects should not be ignored. The need for objectivity was clear: the evaluation procedure was being implemented by secretariat staff not directly involved in the design, approval or implementation of projects, and outside experts would be used when necessary. The possibility of seeking assistance from the Joint Inspection Unit for evaluation purposes would be examined and kept in mind.

341. A few delegations expressed the view that the Governing Council might wish, at some stage, to request the secretariat to prepare evaluations of specific projects. Some delegations also said that Governments should be kept informed of the evaluation plans of the secretariat and of the results of such evaluation, which in the view of one delegation should be submitted directly to the Governing Council.

342. One delegation wondered whether it would not be appropriate to consider undertaking an evaluation of the results of a particular area of activity to see whether they had succeeded in meeting the objectives of the organization. The Acting Deputy Executive Director agreed that that should be done in due course.

343. At the conclusion of its debate, the Sessional Committee recommended a draft decision on the evaluation of the Fund programme activities for adoption by the Governing Council.

4. Financial report and accounts of the Fund of UNEP for the year ended 31 December 1975

344. Introducing document UNEP/GC/L.35, the Acting Deputy Executive Director noted that the unaudited accounts were being submitted simultaneously to the Board of Auditors and the Governing Council. The audited 1975 accounts would be submitted to the Governing Council at its fifth session, with the report of the Board of Auditors and the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon. The Chief, Division of Administration, stated that the Executive Director had authorized an overexpenditure of an amount not exceeding \$300,000 from

the anticipated savings on the budget for programme and programme support costs to purchase furniture and necessary equipment for the new headquarters, which was necessary since the Government of Kenya had indicated its wish to retain the furniture which UNEP had been using at the Kenyatta Conference Centre under a lease purchase agreement. The actual amount of that overexpenditure was \$269,986, for which the Executive Director was seeking the ex post facto approval of the Governing Council.

345. The Committee recommended a draft decision on the financial report and accounts of the Fund of UNEP for 1975 for adoption by the Governing Council.

Action by the Governing Council

346. At its 55th meeting, on 12 April 1976, the Council adopted by consensus the four draft decisions recommended by Sessional Committee II under agenda item 11 (a) (decisions 75 (IV), sect. I, 75 (IV), sect. II, 74 (IV), sect. III, paras. 1-3, and 74 (IV), sect. II, paras. 2 and 3, respectively). 34/

B. Review and approval of the over-all level of Fund programme activities for 1976-1977

347. In discussing item 11 (b), the Committee had before it document UNEP/GC/69, as well as document UNEP/GC/73 and Corr.2. Introducing the documents, the Acting Deputy Executive Director informed the Committee that the Executive Director proposed to reallocate the amount unspent for Fund programme activities in 1975 over the period 1976-1977, thus retaining the total figure of \$82 million approved by the Governing Council at its third session for the years 1975-1977. The Executive Director felt that proposal to be consistent with the decisions of the Governing Council at previous sessions, when unspent amounts had been reallocated to future years. The proposals before the Committee were in line with the general trend of the medium-term plan approved by the Council at its third session. The Committee's attention was drawn to the different figures for expected voluntary contributions in 1976 as shown in document UNEP/GC/73 and Corr.2. The reduction in resources had faced the secretariat with a series of difficult financial decisions.

348. Several delegations supported the proposals of the Executive Director for the reallocation of resources from the unspent balance for 1975 to the years 1976-1977. They urged that the Governing Council resist the temptation to reduce the level of the approved Fund programme, since that would, inter alia, frustrate the momentum achieved in the programme, and particularly the efforts of the developing countries to improve their environment. One delegation pointed out that, in the context of the new international economic order, the richer nations should provide more assistance, since they were more able to do so, and suggested that the developed countries might be invited to contribute not only in cash but also in kind. Many delegations urged those countries that had pledged contributions to honour the pledges in order to enable the Executive Director to accomplish the tasks approved in the medium-term plan. One delegation stated that it was difficult for those Governments which had honoured their pledges to accept a reduction in the level of the Fund programme. Four delegations stated the

34/ For the text of the decisions, see annex I below.

intention of their Governments to increase their contributions to the Fund or to make an initial contribution.

349. Some delegations were of the view that in the difficult task of giving firm guidance to the Executive Director on how to meet the present financial predicament of the Environment Fund, the Governing Council had two possible courses of action: either to find ways of increasing contributions to the level of planned expenditures, or to reduce the level of the Fund programme to bring it in line with existing resources.

350. The Acting Deputy Executive Director stated that the level of the Fund programme should be viewed in the light of future plans over the longer term, and added that the Executive Director felt strongly that the momentum of the programme should be maintained. The Executive Director was convinced that the Fund should be maintained at a stable level, while taking inflationary trends into account, and should not keep growing exponentially. It would be preferable to maintain the target figures requested, in order to give the Executive Director a basis for approaching Governments with a view to obtaining prompt and full payments, as well as new and increased contributions.

351. Some delegations stated that it would be dangerous for the Governing Council to allow the Executive Director to practise deficit budgeting, as was shown in document UNEP/GC/73/Corr.2 for the years 1977 and beyond. In their view, it would be more prudent to scale down the level of the Fund programme to match the resources the Fund could reasonably expect to receive. A few delegations also expressed the view that, given the expected resource picture, it would be better if the secretariat would concentrate on already approved projects, and especially on those in the priority areas already identified. It would be a disservice to the Executive Director to approve a level of expenditures that would result in a large deficit. It was pointed out that a similar situation had arisen in UNDP, where actual contributions did not meet the approved allocations and the commitments made. One delegation said the opportunity should be taken, in the light of the reduced resource base, to pause in the development of the programme in order to consolidate the gains made and give attention to the concentration of activities, a goal which had been mentioned by several speakers in the general debate in the plenary (see para. 51 above).

352. The Acting Deputy Executive Director explained that the situation of UNEP regarding pledges and contributions was different from that of UNDP. He stressed that UNEP would enter into commitments only up to the level of resources it could reasonably expect to receive. The Executive Director had felt fully justified in his expectations that pledges made would be honoured. The problem should be solved not by reducing pledges, but rather by rescheduling of payments against pledges.

353. One delegation stated that if the Executive Director's request for an increased allocation reflected the ability of the secretariat to implement projects, which he felt to be the case, then caution should be exercised in order to avoid overheating in the future. In reply, the Acting Deputy Executive Director reiterated that the secretariat's keen appreciation of the financial difficulties of the Fund would permit it to foresee that danger at an early enough stage and take steps to avoid it, and that the Executive Director intended to manage the resources available for the Fund programme with the utmost caution to avoid a deficit situation.

354. In answer to a delegation which had suggested the approval of a level of expenditures in line with expected resources, the Acting Deputy Executive Director said that article VI, paragraph 5, of the general procedures governing the operations of the Fund would not permit approval of projects above the authorized allocation should additional resources be made available. One delegation felt that that interpretation of the procedures was perhaps too restrictive.

355. One representative suggested that the difficulty might be avoided if the Council approved a floor figure based on the allocation for 1976-1977 approved by the Council at its third session and a ceiling based on the allocation requested at the current session. He noted that the level of Fund programme activities now being considered for 1976-1977 would result in a programme level for the next five-year period almost double that agreed in 1972, and pointed out that the adoption of those higher ceilings should in no way be interpreted as committing existing contributors to increasing their present contributions to meet the additional expenditures. Another delegation, supported by others, proposed that Sessional Committee II should pass on to Sessional Committee I an approved allocation of the level proposed by the Executive Director, accompanied by a proposal that Committee I should develop general guidelines which would help the Executive Director manage the resources available for the implementation of the Fund programme in a sound manner. Another delegation expressed concern over the proposal, since it meant that the Governing Council would accept a gap between expected contributions and proposed expenditures. A consensus finally emerged, in the light of the assurances given by the Acting Deputy Executive Director to the effect that the Executive Director would exercise caution in the management of the resources of the Programme in order to avoid a deficit situation.

356. At the conclusion of its debate, the Committee recommended a draft decision on the over-all level of Fund programme activities for 1976-1977.

357. The Chairman of the Committee communicated the text of the draft decision to the President of the Council, together with the recommendation that Sessional Committee I might wish to suggest guidelines to the Executive Director to assist him in the management of the programme, and asked the President to transmit the communication to the Chairman of Sessional Committee I.

Action by the Governing Council

358. At its 55th meeting, on 12 April 1976, the Council adopted by consensus the draft decision recommended by Sessional Committee II under agenda item 11 (b) (decision 76 B (IV)). 35/

C. Procedural and regulatory matters

359. In discussing item 11 (c), the Committee had before it document UNEP/GC/70 on the distribution of staff costs between the regular budget of the United Nations and the programme and programme support costs of the Fund of UNEP.

35/ For the text of the decision, see annex I below.

360. The Acting Deputy Executive Director noted that the Executive Director had complied with the request of the Governing Council in section IV, paragraph 2, of decision 42 (III) of 30 April and 2 May 1975 by obtaining the assurance of the Secretary-General of the United Nations that the distribution of staff costs between the regular budget and the Fund of UNEP would be reassessed at the time of the next financial budget. In that connexion, he explained that two intergovernmental bodies were responsible for the UNEP budget: the General Assembly for the portion financed from the regular budget and the Governing Council for the portion financed by the Fund of UNEP. That sometimes put UNEP in an awkward position regarding the timing of the consideration of the budgets and the accounts by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Governing Council and the General Assembly. The estimates for programme and programme support costs for 1978-1979 would be submitted for review by the Advisory Committee in the final quarter of 1976.

361. One delegation suggested that Governments be kept informed of the progress of the budgetary process, perhaps through their permanent representatives to UNEP. Another delegation said that the secretariat should communicate with the International Civil Service Commission regarding staff classification.

362. One delegation stressed the importance of environmental matters for the United Nations and recalled that the Council, at its third session, had felt that the share of UNEP in the regular budget should be increased; that ought to be restated in specific terms in the decision taken at the fourth session. Another delegation, supported by others, felt that the Secretary-General was aware of the Council's concern and of the importance of the environment, and that it was therefore unnecessary to express it again.

363. At the conclusion of its debate, the Committee recommended a draft decision on the distribution of staff costs between the regular budget of the United Nations and the programme and programme support costs of the Fund of UNEP for adoption by the Governing Council.

Action by the Governing Council

364. At its 55th meeting, on 12 April 1976, the Council adopted by consensus the draft decision recommended by Sessional Committee II under agenda item 11 (c) (decision 74 (IV), sect. 1). 36/

D. Audited 1974 accounts of the Fund of UNEP

365. In discussing item 11 (d) the Committee had before it document UNEP/GC/71. The Acting Deputy Executive Director explained that the document included the comments of the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the 1974 accounts, and reported the actions taken by the Executive Director on those comments. The Board and the Advisory Committee had made recommendations concerning, inter alia, the new remittance procedure to agencies, the new format of project documents and the project revision procedures. The action taken by the Executive Director regarding the utilization and financing of

36/ Idem.

consultants was in line with the comments of the Board of Auditors. Negotiations were still under way with the Government of Kenya concerning an exemption to the 10 per cent sales tax applied on locally procured supplies.

366. One delegation cautioned the secretariat that the level of remittances to agencies should not be excessive, in order to avoid liquidity problems. Some delegations asked if all consultancy costs should not properly be charged to programme and programme support costs.

367. The Acting Deputy Executive Director explained that some consultancy costs were justifiably charged to projects, when for instance a consultant was hired to develop a project and in due course to serve as a member of the team charged with its implementation. That, he felt, was not in contravention of the comments of the Board of Auditors.

368. At the conclusion of its debate, the Committee recommended a draft decision on the audited 1974 accounts for adoption by the Governing Council.

Action by the Governing Council

369. At its 55th meeting, on 12 April 1976, the Council adopted by consensus the draft decision recommended by Sessional Committee II under agenda item 11 (d) (decision 74 (IV), sect. II, para. 1). 37/

E. Revised estimates for programme and programme support costs, 1976-1977

370. In discussing item 11 (e) the Committee had before it document UNEP/GC/72, on the architectural and engineering study of the construction of permanent UNEP headquarters at Nairobi.

371. The Acting Deputy Executive Director explained that the Secretary-General had requested 38/ that the entire cost of the architectural and engineering study should be borne by the United Nations regular budget. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had studied the request and recommended 39/ that the salaries and common staff costs of the Headquarters Planning Unit for the biennium 1976-1977 be financed from the regular budget, but that the balance of the cost of the study should be met according to a ratio of two thirds from the Fund of UNEP and one third from the regular budget of the United Nations. The Governing Council was thus asked to approve an amount of \$221,000 for the study. The regular budget share would total \$230,000.

372. Some delegations said that, while they accepted the rationale for cost sharing on the architectural and engineering study, it should not be considered as a

37/ Idem.

38/ A/C.5/1718, para. 23.

39/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 8A (A/10008/Add.1-28), document A/10008/Add.14, para. 13.

precedent for the construction costs of the new permanent headquarters. One delegation believed it was not a good idea to use the regular budget for the study and stated that it would abstain on the matter. Another delegation asked if the secretariat had any indicative figures regarding the cost of construction of the permanent headquarters.

373. The Acting Deputy Executive Director said that the cost of the new permanent headquarters would not be known until the completion of the architectural and engineering survey. From the point of view of the secretariat and the Office of General Services in New York, the permanent headquarters should be adequate, appropriate and environmentally sound, but not luxurious. He hoped to be in a position to report to the Governing Council at its fifth session on estimated construction costs.

374. The representative of Mexico announced an offer by his Government to assist the secretariat in the preparation of the detailed architectural and engineering study for the permanent headquarters of UNEP at Nairobi. The secretariat would only be required to provide the travel costs of the Mexican personnel working on the project for visits to Nairobi to examine the site and collect pertinent information, or for whatever other consultations might be necessary outside Mexican territory.

375. The Acting Deputy Executive Director, on behalf of the Executive Director, expressed the gratitude of the secretariat for that generous offer, which was highly appreciated. He suggested that there should be early contact between the secretariat and representatives of the Government of Mexico to discuss the details of the proposal. He added that, following the action taken by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session, various preparatory arrangements were already under way.

376. At the conclusion of its debate the Committee recommended a draft decision on the architectural and engineering study for adoption by the Governing Council.

Action by the Governing Council

377. At its 55th meeting, on 12 April 1976, the Council adopted by consensus the draft decision recommended by Sessional Committee II under agenda item 11 (e) (decision 74 (IV), sect. III, para. 4). 40/

F. Review of the Fund programme for 1976-1977 and of the medium-term plan for the period 1976-1979

378. In discussing item 11 (f) the Committee had before it document UNEP/GC/73 and Corr.2. The Acting Deputy Executive Director explained that it might be necessary for the Council to re-examine the medium-term plan approved at its third session in the light of the over-all level of the Fund programme and of the estimated resources as reflected in document UNEP/GC/73/Corr.2. The deficit figures appearing in the document for the years 1977 and beyond suggested that now

40/ For the text of the decision, see annex I below.

might be an opportune time to appeal to Governments which had not contributed so far to do so, and for Governments which had pledged to pay their pledges fully and quickly, on the one hand, and to consider increasing their pledges, on the other. It was for the Council to decide whether that appeal should include mention of the convertibility of contributions. The Executive Director believed strongly that the secretariat should have sufficient funds in hand at the end of 1976 to cover the payment of commitments due during the first quarter of 1977, and that was an issue on which the Executive Director would need guidance. Governments might also wish to give consideration to the desirable level of the Fund in the years beyond 1977.

379. Several delegations indicated their appreciation of the important issues at stake relating to the medium-term plan, and their consequences for the important question of the level of the Fund of UNEP after the conclusion of the first five years of operation, 1973-1977, for which a target of \$100 million had been set. One delegation stated its understanding that the present discussion was provisional, and that a detailed consideration of the issues involved would be undertaken by the Governing Council at its fifth session. The Acting Deputy Executive Director confirmed that that was the case.

380. One delegation asked whether it was correct to extrapolate the figures for the Fund programme presented to the current session as meaning that a level of \$250 to \$300 million would be required for the five years following 1977. Another delegation requested the secretariat to prepare a paper showing the projections of the level of the Fund, taking into account inflationary trends. In reply, the Acting Deputy Executive Director stated that the Executive Director was convinced that the Fund should attain a stable level of about \$100 million for five years in terms of 1972 dollars; that was consistent with the basic mandate and purpose of the Fund. The level of the Fund programme, which included Fund programme activities, Fund programme reserve and programme and programme support costs, would reach a total of \$250.1 million, \$267.7 million or \$286.3 million for the years 1978-1982 on the basis of a total volume of expenditures of \$43.2 million for 1977, assuming annual inflation rates of 5 per cent, 7.5 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively.

381. A draft decision suggested by the Chairman received support from many delegations. One delegation proposed the addition of a paragraph relating to contributions in non-convertible currencies. The proposal was supported by some delegations which felt that it was important to refer to the matter in view of the relatively high proportion that pledges of \$9.1 million in non-convertible currencies for 1973-1977 represented in the total resources of the Fund. Others felt that such a reference would serve no useful purpose, since it would simply recall provisions of the financial rules relating to pledges in non-convertible currency which were well known. One delegation suggested that, as a compromise, it would suffice to refer to the appropriate financial rule in the paragraph of the draft decision requesting the Executive Director to review with Governments the terms of their contributions. One delegation asked whether pledges for the period following 1977 would have to be made for a five-year period, or could be annual. The Acting Deputy Executive Director stated that a decision on that point would be taken by the Council at its fifth session.

382. One delegation inquired about the status of utilization of non-convertible currencies. In reply, the Acting Deputy Executive Director said that a total of some \$9.1 million in non-convertible currencies from a total of fourteen

countries was pledged for the period 1973-1977, and that \$200,000 had been committed in non-convertible currencies out of the \$8 million expected to be available in 1976. However, discussions with the largest contributor in a non-convertible currency were under way, and he hoped that an early conclusion would make it possible to reach significant levels of expenditure without distorting the programme.

383. At the conclusion of its debate, the Committee recommended a draft decision on the Fund programme for 1976-1977 and the medium-term plan for the period 1976-1979 for adoption by the Governing Council.

384. The representative of the United States of America stated that his delegation's acceptance of the draft decision, particularly paragraphs 4-7, had to be understood in the context of its previous comments on the status of its Government's contributions to the Fund and on prospects for the future.

Action by the Governing Council

385. At its 55th meeting, on 12 April 1976, the Council adopted by consensus the draft decision recommended by Sessional Committee II under agenda item 11 (f) (decision 76 B (IV)). 41/

41/ Idem.

CHAPTER IX

CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF THE ENVIRONMENT CONCERNING NATURAL RESOURCES SHARED BY TWO OR MORE STATES

386. The Governing Council considered agenda item 12 at its 50th meeting, on 6 April 1976. The Council had before it, in conformity with decision 44 (III) of 25 April 1975, adopted by the Governing Council pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3129 (XXVIII) of 13 December 1973, the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Natural Resources Shared by Two or More States on the progress made at its first session (UNEP/GC/74).

387. Most delegations which spoke on the item stressed that the question of shared natural resources was very important, and that they were therefore following with great interest the efforts of the Working Group to prepare draft principles of conduct for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious exploitation of such resources. One delegation noted that the report of the Working Group as transmitted by document UNEP/GC/74 contained several errors, and requested that the text be carefully conformed to the report as modified and adopted by the Working Group on 22 January 1976. Several delegations said that the work accomplished so far by the Group was satisfactory, and a good example of international co-operation on a difficult issue. One delegation pointed out that the significance of that work was evidenced by the number of bilateral agreements existing on the subject, several of which had been referred to in the course of the Group's deliberations. In reminding the Governing Council that the mandate of the Working Group derived essentially from article 3 of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974), another delegation pointed out that the work of the Group should also be seen in the light of the new international economic order.

388. Several delegations stated that they viewed the work of the Group as useful, on the clear understanding that it would lead to the preparation of a set of draft principles which would have the value of simple recommendations, not of binding legal norms. Noting that the work of the Group should facilitate international co-operation with a view to harmonizing possible conflicts between States, some delegations emphasized that it should be based on the principle of the sovereignty of States over their natural resources.

389. Several delegations felt that the mandate of the Working Group was too vague: it should be expressly limited to the preparation of draft principles of conduct in the field of the environment for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious exploitation of natural resources shared by two or more States. One delegation pointed out in that connexion that the Group should deal mainly with co-operation in avoiding significant environmental damage, and in avoiding and resolving environmental disputes. Another delegation felt that the scope of the Group's work should be limited to the elaboration of draft general principles regarding resources used by two or more States, so that such general principles might serve as a basis for the conclusion of bilateral or multilateral agreements

among States concerned about the protection of the environment at their borders. Another thought the Group should base its work on the practice of States, and not touch upon those aspects of the question which pertained to existing environmental law, since they properly fell within the purview of the International Law Commission. One representative said that, in keeping with the agreement reached in the Group itself, any principles or guidelines which it ultimately recommended should be without prejudice to the work now in progress at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

390. Several delegations felt that it would be useful if, at a later stage, the Group could arrive at an agreed conceptual definition of natural resources shared by two or more States, or at least set out a number of criteria or a pattern of characteristics which would enable States to know and understand their own responsibilities and duties in that regard. Some delegations also felt that it would be appropriate for the Group to prepare a list of such resources, which, in the view of one delegation, should include solar energy.

391. With reference to the possibility that the Group might prepare a list of shared natural resources, the representative of Venezuela said that natural resources could not be regarded as shared merely in virtue of their inclusion in lists, and that in any case a list could not be prepared if there were no firm criteria as to the nature of the resource which was shared: i.e., as to whether it moved from one country to another, whether it remained in the territory of one State or whether it was regarded as part of the common heritage of mankind. Moreover, definitions were restrictive and lists exhaustive; both would have to be amended as quickly and as often as circumstances required. Venezuela would prefer that criteria should be established which could be generally accepted because they were consistent and permanent, but at the same time open to amendment. His delegation associated itself with the position taken by Mexico and Argentina as stated in paragraph 16 of the Group's report. If a list of shared natural resources were to be prepared, Venezuela could not agree to the inclusion of oil and gas in the list. The delegation of Iraq associated itself with that position.

392. While delegations were generally agreed that the Group should pursue its work, one delegation said that it should complete it rapidly, while another was of the view that the Group should be allowed to pursue its task over an extended period of time, since the subject with which it was concerned required continuous vigilance. Another representative said that the 1976 session of the Group should take place after September of that year, to allow it to take into account the results of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. Another delegation suggested that the time and place for the next meeting of the Group should be set by the Executive Director in consultation with the Governments concerned.

393. Several delegations supported the proposal of the Executive Director that the Netherlands and Senegal, whose membership in the Governing Council had expired, should remain members of the Group in order to ensure continuity of its work. One delegation suggested in that connexion that another member be added to the Group in order to facilitate adherence to the continuity principle. One representative also suggested that, in conformity with paragraph 3 of decision 44 (III), the Executive Director should invite specialized agencies and international governmental and non-governmental organizations to co-operate with the Group.

394. The representative of Brazil recalled that, at the third session of the Governing Council, his delegation had voted against decision 44 (III), since it disagreed strongly with some of the terms of reference for the Working Group set forth in that decision. His Government's objections had been to a greater or lesser degree shared by the 20 members of the Council who had abstained in the vote on the decision. Since the Governing Council was now dealing with work in progress, and examining an interim report, his delegation did not wish at the present stage to raise again its very substantive reservations on the question. It remained, however, firmly committed to the opinions which had led it to cast a negative vote at the third session. The participation of his country in the Working Group was based on the clear understanding that its final work would be purely of a recommendatory and accessory nature, ad referendum of Governments, and that, as was indicated in paragraph 13 of the report, to the extent that any of those principles or guidelines did not exist in international law, they would not be legally binding on States. Brazil attached the greatest importance to the suggested principle found on page 8 of the report under the heading "Development potential". It attributed fundamental importance to the principle of permanent national sovereignty over natural resources, which, in its view, should be the cardinal principle guiding members of the Working Group in the pursuit of their work. In the view of the Brazilian delegation, the decision taken by the Group to avoid seeking an agreed definition for shared natural resources and not to list such resources in a comprehensive manner was a very pragmatic one and had allowed the Group to make some real progress.

Action by the Governing Council

395. At its 51st meeting, on 6 April 1976, the Governing Council adopted without a vote a draft decision on co-operation in the field of the environment concerning natural resources shared by two or more States suggested by the President, as amended orally during the debate. 42/

42/ Idem.

CHAPTER X

REVIEW OF INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CO-OPERATION

396. The Governing Council considered agenda item 13 at its 50th and 51st meetings, on 6 April 1976. The Council had before it the Executive Director's report on the review of the institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation (UNEP/GC/75).

397. Introducing the item, the Executive Director reminded the Governing Council that the institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation had been discussed with Governments at the informal consultations held in January 1976. The task before the Council was not to prejudge the results of the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, or those of the Habitat Conference on possible institutional arrangements for human settlements, but to indicate what guidelines or criteria should be presented to those bodies.

398. There was general agreement that the existing institutional arrangements, as established by General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, had in general provided a sound basis for the discharge by UNEP of the functions and responsibilities assigned to it, and that any changes which might appear desirable in the light of experience to date could be effected without altering the basic structure of the Programme. In particular there was a consensus that, whatever the results of the restructuring, the unique co-ordinating and catalytic role of UNEP should be preserved and the Environment Fund should continue to be an integral part of UNEP.

399. Several delegations stressed that UNEP was neither an executing agency nor a funding agency, but a planning and co-ordinating body, and that it should not go beyond the strict limits of those functions and become involved in operational activities. UNEP would perform its role more efficiently if it retained a small, flexible, technically and scientifically competent and alert secretariat.

400. There was general agreement that the present system of holding annual sessions of the Governing Council should be maintained, in view of the advantages to be gained from frequent contact between the secretariat and Governments. It was recognized, however, that the preparations for each session laid a heavy burden on the secretariat, in particular that of preparing a large volume of documentation. In that connexion most representatives took the view that efforts should be made to reduce and streamline the documentation. One representative suggested that the three documents submitted annually at Levels One, Two and Three, respectively, should be merged into one; he also saw advantages in submitting an in-depth study of the environmental situation only once every five years. One representative offered the capacity available in his country for the translation of documents into Spanish.

401. It was agreed that, as a further means of easing the secretariat's task, the agenda for each session could be lightened considerably if some items now being examined every year were included only in alternate years.

402. One representative urged that, since the volume of documentation was determined mainly by requests from the Governing Council itself or from the General Assembly, members of the Council should give careful consideration to their requests for reports, in order to avoid overloading the secretariat. In addition, they should instruct their representatives to the General Assembly that such requests should be addressed to the Governing Council, which would decide how much time was needed in order to comply with them.

403. One representative maintained that, even if the Governing Council continued to meet at the same interval as in the past, the delicate questions of policy which would be discussed between its fourth and fifth sessions at the Habitat Conference, in the Economic and Social Council, at the General Assembly and in the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System made it urgently necessary to set up a Governing Council committee to act between the Council's two sessions. Such a committee should have not more than 15 members, including the officers of the Governing Council for its fourth session and the Presidents of the Council for its three previous sessions.

404. One representative, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American States, expressed the view that, although the institutional arrangements of UNEP were generally satisfactory, its activities were in need of further decentralization, and the authority of the regional offices should be strengthened, by empowering them to propose and carry out programmes at the regional and subregional levels. Even some administrative activities, such as the distribution of documents within each region, could be entrusted to the regional offices. Furthermore, the activities of all United Nations bodies should be co-ordinated at the regional level, and co-ordination boards should be set up for that purpose.

405. Several delegations supported the idea of strengthening regional activities. One representative observed that UNEP should not be linked to UNDP, but should have its own country representatives.

406. There was general agreement that the Environment Co-ordination Board had performed its functions satisfactorily. However, one representative expressed the view that perhaps the Board had not yet fully attained its objectives and should itself set about considering how efficient co-ordination in environmental matters and in the conduct of programmes could best be achieved.

407. Another representative considered it particularly important that the Board should be an organization whose purpose was to secure the execution of the programme agreed upon by the Governing Council. He doubted that the Board was at present equipped to monitor the work of other organizations, and therefore deemed it essential that the Executive Director, as the Chairman of the Board, should be given the technical and secretariat assistance necessary to ensure that the Board performed its co-ordinating duties effectively. In the opinion of another representative, the Board should prepare reports of a more exhaustive nature for submission to the Governing Council.

408. With regard to institutional arrangements concerning housing and human settlements, it was agreed that the Governing Council should not prejudge the results of the Habitat Conference. It was however pointed out that, whatever was decided, there would have to be some connexion between the man-made environment and the natural environment. The man-made environment formed an integral and inseparable part of the activities of UNEP.

409. One representative emphasized that UNHHSF should be answerable to the agency responsible for human settlements in general and therefore should not be subordinate to UNEP, as it was at present, unless UNEP was the body competent to deal with all aspects, and not merely the environmental aspects of human settlements.

Action by the Governing Council

410. At its 59th meeting, on 14 April 1976, the Governing Council considered a draft decision, suggested by the President, on institutional arrangements.

411. The representative of the Philippines, speaking on behalf of the Chairman (the representative of India) of the Group of Asian States represented in the Governing Council, said that the Group had wished to include in part C of the draft decision a paragraph relating to the possibility, if necessary, of convening a resumed fourth session of the Council to consider the course of action to be taken after the Habitat Conference. In view of the assurance by the Executive Director that the rules of procedure of the Council in any case provided for that possibility, the Group had withdrawn its suggestion.

412. The representative of Brazil stated that the provisions of the draft decision should not be regarded as prejudging the recommendations of the Habitat Conference. His delegation reserved the right to take at Vancouver the course of action it considered more beneficial to the United Nations system as a whole. Similar considerations applied to the general question of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. In determining its position on that question, his Government would, while taking due account of the needs and interests of UNEP and other parts of the system, be guided by the need for the system to operate smoothly as an integrated whole.

413. The representative of Uruguay said that in his delegation's view, part C of the draft decision in no way restricted the freedom of action of the Habitat Conference, or the right of Governments to accept its recommendations.

414. The representative of Venezuela, commenting on parts A and B of the draft decision, observed that the efforts of UNEP to make a positive contribution must of necessity be taken into account by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System. Conversely, in seeking to justify the progress made by UNEP, the Governing Council should remain receptive to ideas put forward in that Committee and elsewhere. His Government would remain open to suggestions made in such forums which in its view would improve the functioning of the United Nations system as a whole, as well as the activities of UNEP. Similarly, his delegation's support for part C of the draft decision in no way prejudged the position his Government might take at the Habitat Conference, or its freedom of decision in that forum.

415. The draft decision was adopted without a vote (decision 78 (IV)). 43/

43/ Idem.

CHAPTER XI

ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

A. Introduction and general comments

416. In considering agenda item 14 at its 46th and 47th meetings, on 2 April 1976, the Governing Council had before it the interim report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC/76), prepared in response to Governing Council Decision 21 (III) of 2 May 1975, together with a background paper contained in document UNEP/GC(IV)/INF.5. The Council also considered together with item 14 agenda item 15 (a) and (b), for which the documentation comprised reports on irrational and wasteful use of natural resources (UNEP/GC/79) and ecodevelopment (UNEP/GC/80), prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 3326 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974.

417. Introducing the debate, the Executive Director stressed the interim nature of the documents, due mainly to the lack of time to prepare more in-depth studies. That was particularly so as far as documents UNEP/GC/76 and UNEP/GC/80 were concerned. The three reports were being circulated to Governments and the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, with a request for comments which would be synthesized and used as guidance in the further development of documents. Document UNEP/GC(IV)/INF.5, the report of the meeting of experts from developing countries on environment and development sponsored by UNEP at the International Centre for Development in Paris, had arrived too late for inclusion in the body of the text for item 14, but would receive full consideration in the revision of the relevant report. In the view of the secretariat, it would be logical and profitable to consider all of the documents together.

418. Some delegations commended all three reports. Others indicated that in view of their reservations regarding the treatment of the issues discussed, they would prefer to reserve their comments until the reports were submitted to the Governing Council in final form at its fifth session.

419. A number of delegations, while expressing disagreement with various elements contained in the documents, nevertheless recognized that as interim reports they were useful contributions to the on-going debate on the subjects with which they dealt. The complexity and interrelatedness of the subjects discussed in the three reports were generally recognized, and the view was advanced that the three reports should be combined into a single document. One delegation proposed that the Executive Director should convene an intergovernmental expert group meeting to assist in that process.

420. One delegation said that, while the reports were insufficiently detailed and tended to over-emphasize negative aspects, they would nevertheless assist the developing countries in avoiding mistakes made elsewhere, and indicated that the knowledge needed for their revision was already available. Some delegations pointed out that insufficient attention had been paid in them to the accumulated experience of other parts of the United Nations system, for example, the studies prepared by UNCTAD on pollution control and the work of ECE, through its senior advisers on environmental questions, relating to environmental aspects of development planning.

421. Specific reference was made to the need to integrate work on environment and development issues with work on the implementation of the new international economic order and to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. It was pointed out that full equity at the international, national and local levels could be achieved only if due emphasis was placed on environmental considerations. The duty of the international community to assist the developing countries in implementing long-term development policies which took account of far-reaching environmental objectives was noted.

422. It was pointed out that better methods were needed for evaluating the environmental component of development programmes and projects. The need for increased co-operation between UNEP and international and regional development centres and technical assistance agencies was noted. One delegation welcomed in that connexion the fact that the World Bank was now taking the environment into consideration in its evaluations.

B. Environment and development

423. During the discussion, a number of delegations called for a substantial revision of the report on environment and development before its presentation to the Governing Council at its fifth session. The view was advanced that the secretariat should give priority to the revision of that report.

424. A number of delegations called for greater attention to differences between countries not only in level of development, but also in economic organization and social structure, especially with regard to central planning techniques. One delegation stated that in its Government's view the environmental problems of developing countries were the results of colonialism and imperialism, and when those countries freed themselves from hegemonist control, they needed to build up modern industry and agriculture in order to achieve economic and political independence. The solution to the environmental problems they encountered in that process must be sought not through less rapid development, but in social progress and the advance of science and technology. Another representative emphasized the importance attached by countries to the review and analysis contained in the report of the Paris meeting on environment and development. It was also suggested that the views of the Caracas meeting of Latin American States held in preparation for the Governing Council session should be taken into account in further work on the report.

425. Some speakers were of the view that the General Assembly, at its seventh special and thirtieth regular sessions, had paid insufficient attention to the environmental aspects of development. Others, on the other hand, believed that the Executive Director's report was superficial in its treatment of the important and carefully negotiated international instruments adopted at those and other meetings, and saw no justification for criticism of those instruments. One speaker found it unfortunate that all the examples in the report describing activity detrimental to the environment were drawn from the developing world.

426. A number of delegations underlined the significance of national sovereignty as the basis for decisions related to development, and indicated that the report did not bring that point out with sufficient clarity. It was suggested in that connexion that the Governing Council should indicate the need for an international conference on the exercise of permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

427. Some speakers saw the provision of basic human needs as the central issue, and one delegation indicated the importance of quantifying those needs for the development of both national and global strategies. Several countries, making reference to the Cocoyoc Declaration (A/C.2/292) and to recent resolutions of the General Assembly, emphasized the importance of the concept of self-reliance, which meant that developing countries should acquire the capacity to make decisions and develop according to their own criteria; in that connexion, the need for greater co-operation between developing countries was pointed out.

428. Several delegations stated that there was a need to involve the world community more closely with the discussion of environment and development issues, and one suggested that as one means of promoting that goal, the Executive Director should be authorized to report the views of UNEP on the subject to UNCTAD at its forthcoming fourth session.

429. A number of delegations noted that improvement or preservation of the environment was itself a result of economic development. One delegation stressed the need to consider the economic and social consequences of environmental degradation, while another underlined the difficulties encountered by some States in finding adequate resources to deal with environmental degradation.

430. Several delegations wondered why the secretariat still felt the need to defend the interrelatedness of environment and development. They felt that the idea was understood and well established and, while it needed further elaboration, did not require restatement. A number of developing countries warned, however, that while the issue of environment and development was much better understood now in the developing world, there was still potential conflict between the goals of development and the maintenance of a sound environment.

431. The Level One nature of the environment and development study was commented on by several speakers who felt that the issue should rather be dealt with at Levels Two and Three, since what was needed was specific guidance on future practical measures. It was felt that UNEP could do much in that area through the elaboration of techniques for assessment of environmental consequences.

432. Another speaker emphasized the importance of the style of development, pointing to the potential benefits of a strategy aimed at development of small cities and towns, while others spoke of the need for industrial-agricultural and rural-urban balance. Several members reiterated the need to consider employment and unemployment and the conditions of work, including occupational accidents, within the context of the environment and development discussion.

433. It was suggested that the impact of multinational corporations be taken into consideration, in particular through the development of criteria for assessing the transfer of polluting industries; that should be done within the context of the industrial goals of the developing countries as set forth in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development Co-operation adopted by the Second General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. 44/

44/ See A/10112, chap. IV.

434. Several delegations stressed the need for more research and case studies before the fifth session of the Governing Council; problems should be considered in specific, rather than general, terms. The view was expressed that, at the level of problems and their solutions, there was a lack of specific examples; when such examples were adduced they might not lend themselves to broad generalizations. It was also pointed out that the ecosystem concept must be borne in mind in the context of environment and development.

435. Another delegation indicated the need to integrate environmental management with environment and development. Several delegations underlined their desire for the secretariat to emphasize the elaboration of evaluation methodologies and assessment criteria which would enable developing countries to make more rational and environmentally sound decisions regarding their development.

436. The Executive Director's views regarding industrialization were endorsed by a number of speakers. It was pointed out that indiscriminate industrialization would not bridge the gap between developed and developing countries, but that an extreme conservationist policy was also not feasible - to exist, man must necessarily disturb the ecological balance to some extent. One delegation said that while disturbance of ecosystems could be tolerated to some extent, beyond a certain limit it could lead to ecocide. The need for redeployment of industry in the interests of more efficient and less waste-producing resource use, more appropriate transfer of technology and a better international distribution of labour, was noted.

437. One delegation pointed out that agriculture was the foundation for the development of the developing countries. Without agricultural development, industrial development could not advance very far. The natural conditions which could impede agricultural development could be changed by mankind through hard work, and pessimism and inertia in that respect were both groundless.

438. Several delegations expressed support for the conclusions reached in the Executive Director's report on environment and development. A number of speakers made comments on specific points in the report, and requested the secretariat to take them into account in its further work on the subject. In particular, it was suggested that the scope of the report should be extended to cover resource use, ecodevelopment, environmental management and appropriate technology.

C. Irrational and wasteful use of natural resources

439. A number of delegations expressly commended the Executive Director's report on the environmental impact of the irrational and wasteful use of natural resources (UNEP/GC/79), which was seen as a first step towards the practical application of principle (q) of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. The report, by making it clear that the worst use of the environment occurred at the two extremes of the scale of wealth, argued effectively for the redistribution of the world's resources which was a central objective of that Declaration and its accompanying Programme of Action.

440. One delegation, commenting on the definition of wastefulness as the use of more resources than were required to achieve a specific level of need-satisfaction, pointed out that the achievement of such a level might in itself lead to waste if the needs being satisfied, although felt by the groups concerned, were in fact extravagant, and consumed resources which could be used to meet the basic needs of other groups.

441. There was general support for an initial concentration on water, soil and energy, as vitally important natural resources. One delegation, while commending the section of the report on prices and social costs, cautioned UNEP not to duplicate the work on natural resources management of other organizations within and outside the United Nations system. A number of delegations reiterated the importance of central planning techniques for avoiding related problems. One delegation suggested that a prior and necessary step would be nationalization of natural resources, while another spoke of the need for nations with different economic systems to learn from one another. The co-operation and economic integration of the member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the agreement in effect between them, could serve as a useful model for other countries.

442. The importance of economic development in enabling a country to utilize its resources rationally was reiterated, and emphasis was placed on the fact that the rational and non-wasteful use of resources would lead to multiple economic and social benefits. Attention was drawn to the need for considerable work in the area of low-waste and non-waste environmentally sound technology. A related comment referred to the irrational and wasteful use of natural resources occasioned by the armaments race. Further work was deemed necessary in materials balance studies, and the development of economic units to use or recycle waste and by-products, including household wastes. The importance of management of resources such as forests and water, particularly with regard to water quality and quantity, was pointed out by several delegations.

443. Several delegations stressed the importance of the outer limits concept in assisting analysis of rationality of resource use and the making of decisions on resource allocation. One speaker pointed out that such limits were a factor in the capacity of society to adjust the development process to limited natural possibilities. Particular attention was directed by one delegation to the relative impact on the biosphere of biodegradable and non-biodegradable pollutants. A suggestion was made that that issue, as well as the broader issue of environmental changes resulting from development, called for multinational and multidisciplinary research, the results of which could be made generally accessible through IRS.

444. A number of representatives described progress being made in their own countries with regard to combating desertification, reclamation of severely damaged areas, multipurpose use of resources, including waste recycling, and physical planning for a rational balance between industry and agriculture, as well as for a rational tourist infrastructure.

445. Several delegations expressly supported the suggested draft decision contained in the Executive Director's report (UNEP/GC/79). One speaker, however, expressed doubt as to the feasibility of devising the criteria in question, while another called for the preparation of separate criteria for assessing the environmental impact of biodegradable and non-biodegradable substances. It was also proposed that the draft decision should be combined with those suggested for environment and development and ecodevelopment.

D. Ecodevelopment

446. Ecodevelopment was a subject of interest to many delegations and a number of suggestions were made regarding the concept, which was seen as responding to the need to reconcile the development imperative with the long-term use of the environment. Several delegations, while endorsing the relevant report in principle, were hesitant to encourage the operational use of the term, feeling that it might prove to be redundant in the context of the environment and development concept. One delegation advised the secretariat to be cautious and not oversimplify the issue, in view of the technical difficulties of applying the concept. The Executive Director was also requested to give a full report on the findings of all eco-development projects.

447. One delegation attached particular importance to the question of land as a central issue which eco-development must address, particularly in largely rural, developing countries. The need to increase agricultural productivity resulted in mass destruction of natural vegetative cover, with consequent danger of desertification and changes in microclimate; indiscriminate fertilizer and pesticide use often destroyed ecologically useful insects and micro-organisms, while the spread of human settlements often led to disregard of the potential agricultural value of land.

448. Suggestions for future activity by the secretariat included the provision of advice to developing countries in assessing and predicting the carrying capacity of their land. Particular attention was drawn to the need for application of remote sensing techniques to supplement traditional aerial photography and soil testing. Another delegation suggested that the activities of ECE in relation to eco-development should be taken into account by the secretariat. Another suggested that consideration should be given to ensuring that planners and field personnel worked in close liaison with each other, perhaps through exchanges of positions for periods of time. Another speaker indicated that the importance of taking into account existing infrastructures should be reflected in eco-development activities, while another found the conclusions of the Executive Director's report on eco-development irrefutable and considered eco-development an essential part of a global environmental philosophy paying close attention to basic human needs and the ecological aspects of development. A number of delegations specifically endorsed the draft decision suggested in paragraph 31 of the Executive Director's report.

449. In discussing eco-development and rational resource use, one delegation emphasized the importance of manpower training and retraining, and offered to host such activities within the context of its contribution to the Fund of UNEP.

E. Conclusion of the debate

450. In his final intervention the Executive Director requested those countries with further comments on the reports to pass them in writing to the secretariat in order to assist in the preparation of future reports. The secretariat was well aware of the shortcomings in the existing documents, which were intended solely to convey to the Council the preliminary views of the UNEP secretariat, and to seek its guidance for future work. The fact that, as one delegation had noted, the report under item 15 (a) had not addressed problems of water, energy and soil was due to the need to establish as a first step criteria of rationality and wastefulness agreed upon by Governments. In that regard, he once again requested that the Governing Council authorized him to convene an intergovernmental working group to consider the issue.

451. The secretariat was well aware of the close relationship between the three topics covered by the reports, but had had to prepare separate documents because its instructions had come in one case from the Governing Council and in the other two cases from the General Assembly. If the Governing Council wished the three topics to be dealt with in one document, the secretariat would comply.

452. Finally, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa emphasized Africa's interrelated problems of soil, water and forests and the need of many African countries to receive greater assistance from UNEP in rationally meeting basic human needs.

Action by the Governing Council

453. At its 59th meeting, on 14 April 1976, the Council considered a draft decision, suggested by the President, on environment and development.

454. The representative of Brazil said his delegation welcomed paragraph 4 of the decision. However, it had reservations regarding paragraph 5 (e), since it doubted that it was wise or opportune for the Executive Director to make the proposed contacts with international financial institutions.

455. The representative of Mexico, recalling that in a spirit of compromise the members of the Group of Seventy-seven represented in the Council had agreed to the deletion from the preamble to the draft decision of a reference to the Cocoyoc Declaration (A/C.2/292), said that the Declaration contained not only ideas which were important from the environmental standpoint, but also an extremely useful plan of action, and should be studied by the secretariat and by delegations as a guide to future action in relation to environment and development.

456. The representative of the United Kingdom noted that the Council had not discussed in detail the matters listed for special attention in paragraph 5 of the draft decision. Accordingly, the intergovernmental working group which the Executive Director was authorized by paragraph 4 of the decision to convene should not confine its discussions strictly to the mandate set by that paragraph, but should also consider the matters referred to in paragraph 5 of the decision.

457. The draft decision was adopted without a vote (decision 79 (IV)). 45/

45/ For the text of the decision, see annex I below.

CHAPTER XII

REPORTS AND STUDIES CALLED FOR BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN RESOLUTION 3326 (XXIX)

458. Agenda items 15 (a) and (b), entitled "Irrational and wasteful use of natural resources" and "Ecodevelopment", were considered by the Governing Council in conjunction with agenda item 14, "Environment and development". For an account of the debate in this connexion, and of the action by the Governing Council, see chapter XI of the present report.

459. Agenda items 15 (c), (d), (e) and (f) were assigned to Sessional Committee I for consideration. The Committee had before it the following documents: technical assistance and training (UNEP/GC/81); catalytic role of UNEP (UNEP/GC/82); and annexes I and II of document UNEP/GC/61 dealing, respectively, with weather modification and replies received from organizations of the United Nations system concerning their activities in the field of international environmental law. These questions were discussed by the Committee in the context of agenda item 7, and relevant debate and action are reported in chapter III above.

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Resolutions of the seventh special and thirtieth regular sessions of the General Assembly of relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme

460. The Governing Council considered agenda item 16 at its 52nd meeting, on 7 April 1976. The Council had before it a note by the Executive Director on resolutions and decisions of the seventh special and thirtieth regular sessions of the General Assembly of relevance to the activities of UNEP (UNEP/GC/84 and Corr.1 and Add.1).

461. In a brief introductory statement, the Executive Director drew the attention of the Council to paragraphs 9 to 11 of document UNEP/GC/84 regarding co-operation between UNEP and the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. He informed the Council that an exchange of correspondence between the Executive Director of UNEP and the Secretary-General of the United Nations had led to the suggestion that the organizational responsibility for the secretariat of the Committee be transferred to UNEP. The Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, to whom the Committee secretariat presently reported, had participated in that suggestion. The Executive Director had informed the Secretary-General that the transfer might meet with the approval of UNEP only if it was clearly understood that the funding of the Committee secretariat from the regular budget of the United Nations would not be affected and that the United Nations Industrial Development Organization would continue to provide administrative support for the secretariat. The Executive Director had now received confirmation that that would be the case.

462. The Executive Director also drew the attention of the Council to paragraph 22 of document UNEP/GC/84/Add.1, containing a suggested course of action for the Governing Council regarding General Assembly resolution 3435 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 on the problem of the material remnants of wars, particularly mines, and their effect on the environment, in paragraph 5 of which the Assembly requested the Governing Council "to undertake a study of the problem ... and to submit a report on the subject to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session".

463. In the debate which ensued, one representative said that the transfer of the secretariat of the Scientific Committee was tantamount to opening up a new area of activity for UNEP. UNEP should provide further information on the question, particularly with regard to its financial implications and the reactions of IAEA. In his view, the question should be taken up by the Governing Council at its fifth session. In reply, the Executive Director indicated that the transfer of the Committee's secretariat had no financial implications. It was a matter of an exclusively administrative nature which had been brought to the Governing Council's attention for information purposes only.

464. Referring briefly to General Assembly resolution 3435 (XXX), another delegation pointed out that most developing countries had been exposed to war which had caused severe loss of life and property in their territories; in some of them, development had been impeded by material remnants of war, particularly mines, and adequate measures should be taken to improve their environment, especially through international environmental co-operation.

465. Another representative approved the action suggested to the Governing Council by the Executive Director in paragraph 22 of document UNEP/GC/84/Add.1, although, in his view, the wording of some of the provisions contained in that paragraph might be slightly modified.

466. The Chinese delegation said its Government was basically in agreement with the draft decision suggested by the secretariat on the 17 resolutions concerning environmental problems adopted by the General Assembly at its thirtieth regular and seventh special sessions, and had voted for 13 of those resolutions: 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, 3370 (XXX) of 30 October 1975, 3434 (XXX), 3435 (XXX), 3438 (XXX) and 3440 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, 3461 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 3506 (XXX), 3507 (XXX), 3511 (XXX), 3512 (XXX), 3513 (XXX) and 3517 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, and for the decision of 9 December 1975 transmitting document A/10225 to the Governing Council. However, the Chinese delegation wished to stress that the views of its Government, and its position of principle, as expressed at relevant United Nations meetings, including those of the General Assembly, remained unchanged with regard to resolution 3475 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, concerning prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other hostile purposes, which are incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health; resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, concerning conventions and protocols in the field of the environment; and resolution 3437 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 concerning the report of the third session of the Governing Council.

Action by the Governing Council

467. At its 52nd meeting, on 7 April 1976, the Governing Council agreed, at the suggestion of the President, to take note of those resolutions brought to its attention as being of relevance to UNEP which had not been discussed under other agenda items, and of the action taken and planned by the Executive Director in respect of those resolutions. 46/

468. At its 54th meeting, on 9 April 1976, the Governing Council adopted by consensus a draft decision suggested by the President on the study of the problem of the material remnants of wars, particularly mines, and their effect on the environment (decision 80 (IV)). 47/

B. Relationships with non-governmental organizations

469. The Governing Council considered agenda item 18 at its 52nd meeting on 7 April 1976. The Council had before it a note by the Executive Director on relationships with non-governmental organizations (UNEP/GC/77).

46/ See annex I below, "Other decisions".

47/ For the text of the decision, see annex I below.

470. One delegation said that UNEP should pursue its efforts to develop close ties with the international scientific community. It should also endeavour to co-operate more closely with the International Centre for Industry and the Environment so that industrial and environmental interests would be better able to understand each other's viewpoints and collaborate for their mutual benefit. Another representative stressed that the work, enthusiasm and support of non-governmental organizations had been a major boost to environmental interests in general and UNEP in particular. The latter, in his view, would be even more effective if it developed stronger links with the community of non-governmental organizations. The representative of Spain indicated that his delegation and others would present at the Habitat Conference the results of work accomplished by the International Union of Architects.

471. The Executive Director stated that UNEP was endeavouring to establish closer links with the international scientific community, with industry (particularly through its Paris office responsible for the programme on environment and industry) and with the non-governmental community.

Action by the Governing Council

472. At its 52nd meeting, the Governing Council adopted by consensus a draft decision suggested by the President on relationships with non-governmental organizations (decision 81 (IV)). 48/

C. International Environment Prize

473. The Governing Council also heard a brief statement by the Executive Director on the work of the first meeting of the Advisory Selection Committee for the International Environment Prize, generously endowed by the Government of Iran at an annual level of \$50,000. The Committee had met on 26 and 27 March 1976 to examine the 88 nominations received from a number of United Nations, governmental and non-governmental sources and from distinguished persons. The Committee had made its recommendation, and the Executive Director had transmitted it to the Secretary-General, who would consult with the Government of Iran on the recommendation which had been made. It was expected that a press release would be issued simultaneously in New York, Nairobi and Teheran to announce the selection. Although, according to the rules of procedure of the Selection Committee, the award ceremony was to take place on 5 June, either at Nairobi or in New York, thought was being given to holding it during the Habitat Conference; the Secretary-General would decide on that matter in consultation with the Government of Iran.

Action by the Governing Council

474. At its 52nd meeting, the Governing Council, at the suggestion of the President, took note of the oral report of the Executive Director on the first meeting of the Advisory Selection Committee for the International Environment Prize.

48/ Idem.

CHAPTER XIV

PROVISIONAL AGENDA, DATE AND PLACE OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

475. The Governing Council considered the date and place of its fifth session at its 56th meeting, on 13 April 1976. The Executive Director pointed out that to hold the session in the second half of May would allow the secretariat more time to prepare the documentation, while still permitting compliance with the six-week rule for submission of the Council's report on the session to the Economic and Social Council.

476. At its 58th meeting, on 14 April 1976, the Governing Council considered the date and place of the informal consultations to be held between its fourth and fifth sessions in accordance with its decision 23 (III) of 2 May 1975. One delegation suggested that financial assistance should be provided to Governments of developing countries, on request, to enable them to attend the consultations. Another delegation said that the institution of that practice would have profound financial and other implications for UNEP. The Executive Director explained that the informal consultations were financed under the regular budget of the United Nations, as part of the operating expenses of the Governing Council; he would consult the Secretary-General of the United Nations regarding the availability of such assistance to Governments, particularly the least developed among the developing countries, which requested it.

477. The Governing Council also considered at its 58th meeting the draft provisional agenda for its fifth session. A number of delegations suggested changes aimed at reducing the number of agenda items. One speaker suggested that an item dealing with documentation should be added, and attention was drawn to the report of an informal working group on programme documentation which had met during the fourth session. In reply, the Executive Director pointed out that the changes suggested in the agenda would not reduce the burden on either the secretariat or the Governing Council in terms of documentation, and noted in that connexion that the Governing Council had requested more reports for its fifth session than it had for its fourth session. The secretariat would give full consideration to the recommendations of the informal working group, and would inform the Governments in writing of its views regarding the documentation for the fifth session, with a request for their comments. Every effort would be made to keep the documents as concise as possible, and consideration would be given to including in each a brief summary of its main points.

478. Delegations welcomed those assurances, and one welcomed in particular the suggestion for an abstract of the contents of each document.

Action by the Governing Council

479. At its 56th meeting, the Council adopted by consensus a recommendation by the President that its fifth session should be held at Nairobi, from 9 to 25 May 1977, with informal consultations on 8 May. 49/

480. At its 58th meeting, the Council adopted by consensus a recommendation suggested by the President, concerning the informal consultations to be held between its fourth and fifth sessions. 49/

481. At the same meeting, the Council approved the provisional agenda for its fifth session. 49/

49/ See annex I below, "Other decisions".

CHAPTER XV

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION

482. The Governing Council considered the draft report on the work of its fourth session at its 55th to 59th meetings.

483. During the adoption of the report, the representative of China stated that paragraph 37 did not accurately reflect the view of his Government as expressed by his delegation during the debate. However, he offered no specific amendment at that time. After the adoption of paragraph 37 as it then stood, the representative of China submitted the following text for inclusion in the report:

"One delegation emphatically pointed out that the super-Powers were locked in fierce rivalry for world hegemony. While talking endlessly about 'disarmament', they were actually expanding their armaments and preparing for war year after year. Especially the super-Power which most zealously preached 'peace' was all the more frenziedly carrying out arms expansion and war preparations. It was engaged in expansion and aggression everywhere. The so-called 'disarmament' and 'détente' were only a smokescreen for deceiving world public opinion. Only when the developing countries shook off the control and exploitation of colonialism, imperialism and the hegemonism of the super-Powers, and consolidated their national defence, accelerated the development of national economies, built up modern industry and agriculture and realized complete economic independence, would they have the basic condition for maintaining and consolidating national independence, as well as the fundamental guarantee for the effective protection and improvement of the environment."

484. The representative of Venezuela expressed his delegation's regret that none of the decisions adopted at the fourth session contained a reference to the report of the meeting of experts held at the International Centre for Development on the relationship between environment and development (see para. 417 above) or to the final report of the Latin American group meeting held at Caracas in preparation for the session. While his delegation recognized the short time delegations had had to study those documents, it hoped that the Council at its fifth session would be able to devote more attention to such products of regional consensus designed to contribute to the work of UNEP.

485. The Council adopted the present report at its 59th meeting, on 14 April 1976, subject to the incorporation of amendments approved at the 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th and 59th meetings.

CHAPTER XVI

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

486. At the Council's 59th meeting, on 14 April 1976, after the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the fourth session closed.

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Decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations
Environment Programme at its fourth session

47 (IV). Programme policy and implementation

The Governing Council,

Recalling its previous decisions on programme policy and implementation, 1/

Taking fully into account, as adopted, General Assembly resolutions 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, 3437 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 on conventions and protocols in the field of the environment and 3517 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 on the mid-term review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Having considered:

- (a) The introductory statement of the Executive Director, 2/
- (b) The introductory report of the Executive Director, 3/
- (c) The report of the Executive Director on the state of the environment, 1976, 4/
- (d) The report of the Environment Co-ordination Board on its fifth session, 5/

Taking into account the views expressed during its fourth session on questions of programme policy and implementation,

I

1. Considers that the progress made in the implementation of the programme strategies fully justifies the three-level programmatic approach described in section I, paragraph 1, of its decision 20 (III) of 2 May 1975;

2. Calls upon the Executive Director to continue to develop and implement the programme along the same lines;

1/ Decisions 1 (I) of 22 June 1973, 5 (II) of 21 March 1974 and 20 (III) of 2 May 1975.

2/ UNEP/GC/L.36.

3/ UNEP/GC/57 and Corr.1.

4/ UNEP/GC/58 and Corr.1.

5/ UNEP/GC/59 and Corr.1.

3. Endorses the list of concentration areas in the Executive Director's introductory report as a basis for programme formulation until the fifth session of the Governing Council;

4. Requests the Executive Director to keep the list of concentration areas under continuing review and to make recommendations to the Governing Council at its fifth and subsequent sessions regarding suggested modifications or additions to, or deletions from, that list;

5. Endorses the principles set forth by the Executive Director in his introductory statement to guide the future direction of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

6. Further endorses the efforts of the Executive Director to achieve a balance in the Fund programme between projects of different sizes, between global, regional and national activities, and between the needs of developed and developing countries;

7. Notes with satisfaction the progress made in strengthening the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme at the regional level and introducing regional content into the programme, and requests the Executive Director to continue these processes in close consultation with the regional commissions of the United Nations;

8. Further notes the steps taken within the secretariat to improve internal co-ordination and ensure a cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary approach to environmental problems, and requests the Executive Director to maintain and develop that approach in the design and implementation of the programme;

9. Considers that the successful achievements of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of protection of the environment in the Mediterranean region afford a concrete example of both the integrated approach and the proper co-ordinating role that should be the major concern of the Programme in its activities, and requests the Executive Director to ensure that the catalytic function, co-ordination and integration, as opposed to involvement in longer-term activities of a primarily executive character, always constitute the main contribution of the Programme in its endeavours to ensure the protection and improvement of the environment;

10. Welcomes the suggestion of the Executive Director that henceforth the annual state of the environment report should be selective in its treatment of subjects and that an analytical, comprehensive report on developments regarding each of these issues should be prepared every fifth year;

11. Considers that certain activities depend mainly for their proper functioning on full co-operation between Governments and the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme, and accordingly invites Governments to respond promptly and fully to the requests of the Executive Director for co-operation in undertaking activities endorsed by the Governing Council, for example with respect to sources of information for the International Referral System and the functioning of the technical assistance clearing-house, and requests the secretariat to be as precise as possible in formulating its requests for information and assistance;

12. Appreciates the progress made by the secretariat in the field of communication with Governments, but nevertheless expresses deep concern regarding the lack of regular flow of proper information to Governments about ongoing activities and results of projects funded by the United Nations Environment Programme, and in particular regarding the inadequate circulation of reports containing information that can be of use to Governments or regions other than those where the activities were carried out, and welcomes the intention of the Executive Director to give high priority to developing communications with Governments;

13. Endorses the intention of the Executive Director to develop the field of public information, inter alia through the publication of a quarterly journal, and requests him to report fully on progress made in this area to the Governing Council at its fifth session;

14. Considers that the catalytic role of the Environment Fund is prejudiced by the inadequacy of resources in hand, and urges Governments to respond to the appeal of the Governing Council for contributions to the Fund;

II

1. Approves of the progress made by the Environment Co-ordination Board in securing close co-ordination and co-operation between various parts of the United Nations system in the implementation of the environment programme, considers that the Board is a programme co-ordinating body and invites the Board to carry out an analysis of its own activities with a view to ensuring the establishment of ways and means of more efficient and effective co-ordination;

2. Requests members of the Board to join with the Executive Director, singly or jointly, in developing and applying the concept of joint programming, thus helping to ensure that the catalytic role of the United Nations Environment Programme can be more effectively performed and the resources of the United Nations system marshalled to implement the programme;

3. Invites the Board to report on the steps taken by its members to implement the strategies endorsed by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme with respect to the various priority subject areas and functional tasks of the programme;

4. Invites the Board to report to the Governing Council at its fifth session its views on the catalytic role of the Programme and its Fund;

5. Approves the recommendation of the Board that the Inter-Agency Task Force on Data should continue as long as necessary and be designated as a subsidiary body of the Board, so that the Board may provide an overview of the subject to the Governing Council;

6. Requests the Executive Director to negotiate, as appropriate, with financial institutions and lending agencies regarding the financing by them of programmes relating to the environment, and to report to the Governing Council at its fifth session on the results achieved;

III

1. Considers that the issues of population, resources, environment and development form an interrelated system and that solutions to problems arising in any one area must be developed with full consideration of the system as a whole;

2. Believes, therefore, that the environment should be a major consideration in international discussions on development, and that in deciding on measures to promote international co-operation to further development, Governments should ensure that environmental factors are given due recognition;

3. Requests the Executive Director to explore with bilateral and multilateral aid donors ways and means of ensuring that environmental considerations are taken into account in their policies and programmes;

4. Invites the governing bodies of the various United Nations organs and specialized agencies to consider how their programmes can implement, with little or no assistance from the Environment Fund, the strategies approved by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme for the United Nations system as a whole;

IV

1. Reaffirms that the greatest challenge today is to design development which, while satisfying basic human needs - beginning with the eradication of poverty - does not materially reduce environmental quality and does not transgress the global or regional outer limits imposed by the capacities of the biosphere;

2. Considers that the eradication of hunger is a foremost objective of the world community and that existing and proposed activities in the environment programme should seek to ensure that efforts to increase food production are carried out on an environmentally sound and sustainable basis, by taking full account of limitations imposed and opportunities offered by ecological factors;

3. Noting that problems of environmental pollution are universal, but different in every region, and that their eradication calls for urgent action at local, national and regional levels, as well as at the global level;

4. Urges Governments, international agencies and others to take steps to reduce the threats to human health and well-being posed by environmental pollution;

5. Considers that the information gained from environmental assessment can be successfully applied in environmental management and, since environmental management involves inserting a new - environmental - dimension into every stage of the decision-making process, urges Governments to ensure that environmental considerations are borne in mind in all their activities;

6. Urges all States entitled to become parties to existing conventions and protocols in the field of the environment to do so as soon as possible;

7. Expresses its hope that the negotiations during the reconvened Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea will give explicit recognition to environmental considerations in the various articles adopted by the Conference

concerning exploitation of the resources of the sea, and requests the President of the Governing Council to restate to the President of the Conference the decision that the Council first expressed in its decision 25 (III) of 24 April 1975.

59th meeting
14 April 1976

48 (IV). Review of the environmental situation and of activities relating to the environment programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 27 (III) of 30 April 1975,

Noting with gratitude the Level One report of the Executive Director, 6/

1. Endorses, subject to the comments made by delegations at the fourth session of the Governing Council, the action plans outlined in the reviews of the priority subject areas, and notes with satisfaction that these have been taken into account in the preparation of Level Two of the environment programme; 7/

2. Notes the initiatives taken by the Executive Director towards the development of environmental statistics and environmental data banks as a source of management information for Governments, and the action of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Data towards the development and co-ordination within the United Nations system of data information systems on environmental activities;

3. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) Actively to pursue the initiatives in the field of acquisition and use of environmental data, and to report on the progress made and on future prospects to the Governing Council at its fifth session;

(b) To submit to the Governing Council at its fifth session reviews of the following priority subject areas and/or functional tasks:

(i) Human settlements and habitat;

(ii) Health of people and of the environment;

(iii) Natural disasters;

and at its sixth session:

(iv) Environmental management;

6/ UNEP/GC/60.

7/ UNEP/GC/61 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add. 1, Add.2 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.3.

(v) Environmental education and training;

(vi) Environment and development;

4. Notes with appreciation the response from Governments, United Nations organizations, other intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations to requests for information on their activities related to the environment programme;

5. Reiterates its invitation to all Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, to co-operate fully with the Executive Director in the preparation of the review by providing the necessary data requested by him.

57th meeting
13 April 1976

49 (IV). Catalytic role of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the catalytic role of the United Nations Environment Programme, prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 3326 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 8/

1. Endorses the Executive Director's conception of the catalytic role of the United Nations Environment Programme;
2. Notes the application of that role to date;
3. Authorizes the Executive Director to continue to bring the catalytic function to bear on appropriate areas and problems for the benefit of all countries, particularly the developing countries.

57th meeting
13 April 1976

50 (IV). Programme and Fund programme activities

The Governing Council,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on the status of the programme and on Fund programme activities, 1976-1977, 9/

1. Notes with approval the action taken and planned to implement the strategies for each priority area and functional task, and authorizes the Executive Director to continue the development and execution of the programme along those lines;
2. Notes the presentation, whereby each element of the strategy is separately summarized, and action taken and planned to implement it is then described, and welcomes the Executive Director's intention to review how the over-all presentation to the Governing Council of information on the programme and the budget can be further improved;
3. Notes with approval the objectives and strategies described in the Executive Director's report for living marine resources; 10/
4. Authorizes the Executive Director to develop activities under the title "Social outer limits" in association with other relevant activities of

8/ UNEP/GC/82.

9/ UNEP/GC/61 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1, Add.2 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.3, and UNEP/GC/62 and Corr.1, respectively.

10/ UNEP/GC/61, paras. 206-207.

the programme, and to report to the Governing Council at its fifth session on action taken in this respect;

5. Notes the very important new strategy for water 11/ and the additions and amendments to the elements of the strategies agreed to by the Governing Council at its third session for:

(a) Tropical woodland and forest ecosystems; 12/

(b) Integrated approach to environment and development; 13/

(c) Socio-economic impact of environmental measures and of their absence; 14/

(d) Natural disasters; 15/

(e) Environmental management; 16/

(f) Information; 17/

6. Agrees to the Executive Director's proposals 18/ to encourage research into, inter alia, the following aspects of energy: methods of reclaiming strip-mined areas, environmental impacts of hydroelectric power and of non-traditional renewable sources of energy, and conservation of energy at the points of production and use, and requests him to co-ordinate a series of individual in-depth studies on the environmental impacts of the production, storage, transportation and use of all energy sources;

7. Notes the Executive Director's account 19/ of how the concepts of environmental assessment and environmental management, as well as supporting activities, have been applied in the Mediterranean, and requests the Executive Director further to develop work in the Mediterranean in accordance with this framework, while taking steps towards the progressive transfer of executive responsibility to the Governments of the region;

8. Decides that the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals should form part of Earthwatch, and requests the Executive Director to report in future on progress in this area as a component part of Earthwatch;

11/ Ibid., para. 130.

12/ Ibid., para. 93.

13/ Ibid., para. 155.

14/ Ibid., para. 162.

15/ Ibid., paras. 220-226.

16/ Ibid., para. 318 (k).

17/ Ibid., para. 336.

18/ Ibid., para. 213.

19/ UNEP/GC/61/Corr.1 (chap. IV).

9. Requests the Executive Director to defer the convening of an expert meeting on the development of general principles and recommendations on weather modification until a date to be fixed in consultation with the World Meteorological Organization;

10. Further requests the Executive Director to increase the participation of research institutions in and experts from developing countries in carrying out studies which affect developing countries, in order to achieve satisfactory transfer of technology.

57th meeting
13 April 1976

51 (IV). Human settlements and habitat

The Governing Council,

Taking into account the importance of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements for more precise definition of several Fund programme activities,

Mindful of the size of the allocations proposed by the Council under the Fund programme for human settlements and habitat,

Requests the Executive Director to promote the necessary measures in connexion with Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements to ensure that the environmental dimensions of the planning and development of urban and rural human settlements and their implications for physical planning in many countries of the world in the coming decades are taken into consideration.

57th meeting
13 April 1976

52 (IV). Chemicals and physical agents in the environment

The Governing Council,

Noting that chemicals and physical agents in the environment are increasing in number and complexity,

Emphasizing the need for continuous programmes to protect all peoples against the effects of resulting environmental hazards,

Noting the progress made towards these objectives through co-operation with the World Health Organization,

Requests the Executive Director to give high priority to programmes for the establishment of health criteria and monitoring and for the International Register

of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, and to accelerate this action in close co-operation with the specialized agencies, particularly the World Health Organization, and with member States.

57th meeting
13 April 1976

53 (IV). Chemical substances and physical agents whose effects on the environment are unknown

The Governing Council,

Considering the serious environmental impact of chemical substances and physical agents released into the environment, whose effects, by disrupting vital processes, constitute an important part of the causes of current environmental problems,

Stressing the need not to aggravate this problem by releasing new substances whose direct and synergic effects in the short-, medium- and long-term are unknown,

Strongly appeals to all Governments to take adequate measures to ensure that new chemical substances and physical agents are properly evaluated before they are used and discharged into the environment, so as to ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that adverse direct or synergic effects in the short-, medium- and long-term are avoided.

57th meeting
13 April 1976

54 (IV). African tropical rain-forest ecosystem

The Governing Council,

Recognizing that tropical rain-forests are of vital ecological importance at the biospheric level, particularly in Africa,

Recognizing further the economic and social role played by the African tropical rain-forest in the well-being of all the peoples of the region,

Observing the ever-increasing pressure to which the African tropical rain-forest is subjected for lack of the knowledge and techniques needed for its rational utilization,

Noting that the United Nations Environment Programme has the opportunity and the necessary means to promote concerted action at the regional level with regard to training and integrated ecological research on the African tropical rain-forest, on the basis of the resolutions adopted at the Man and the Biosphere regional symposium, which was held at Kinshasa from 25 August to 5 September 1975, and was attended by all countries of central and west Africa,

Requests the Executive Director to take the necessary measures, in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to launch a practical programme, in the form of pilot projects, for the promotion of applied and appropriate studies and research and for the training of the specialists essential to rational use of the African tropical rain-forest.

57th meeting
13 April 1976

55 (IV). Water resources

The Governing Council,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on the status of the programme and on Fund programme activities, 1976-1977, 20/

Conscious of the important role of the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system in promoting the rational management and use of water, in which the environmental, quantitative and qualitative aspects of the resource are taken into account at all stages of related activities,

Noting the progress made in the establishment of the Centre for Water Resources Management, which will start its activities early in 1977,

Having considered further the progress made in the preparations for the United Nations Water Conference,

1. Reaffirms its decision 31 (III) of 2 May 1975;
2. Approves the revised strategy 21/ in the top priority field of water resources submitted by the Executive Director to the Governing Council at its fourth session;
3. Requests the Executive Director to continue to participate actively in the preparations for the United Nations Water Conference, and in this respect:
 - (a) To continue to contribute to the Conference preparations, particularly regarding the environmental aspects of water use and the follow-up of the pertinent recommendations of the Action Plan for the Human Environment 22/ approved by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm in 1972;

20/ UNEP/GC/61 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1, Add.2 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.3, and UNEP/GC/62 and Corr.1, respectively.

21/ UNEP/GC/61, para. 130.

22/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.73.II.A.14 and Corrigendum), chap. II, sect. B.

(b) To promote the goals and objectives of the United Nations Water Conference through the information activities of the Programme and through the information campaign for World Environment Day, 1976;

(c) To provide, at the same level as for the United Nations Conference on Desertification, for the travel expenditures of delegations of developing countries which may face special difficulties in this respect, so that they may attend the Conference;

(d) To continue to ensure adequate co-ordination between the United Nations Conference on Desertification and the United Nations Water Conference.

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13 April 1976

56 (IV). Protection of migratory birds

The Governing Council

1. Urges the Governments of countries in which migratory birds are shot or caught en masse in nets or by any other means to adopt, if they have not already done so, drastic, vigorous and urgent measures to put an immediate end to such practices;

2. Calls upon all Governments to take such measures as may be appropriate for the protection of migratory birds which pass through, stop in or nest in their territory.

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13 April 1976

57 (IV). Environmental problems of specific industries

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the importance of the priority subject area environment and development, and the need for attention to the environmental problems of specific industries,

Noting the results of the first two seminars convened by the Executive Director to discuss such problems, on the pulp and paper and aluminium industries, 23/ and the programme of further seminars which is planned,

Recognizing further the importance of adequate preparation for such seminars and adequate arrangements for follow-up,

23/ For the reports of the seminars, see UNEP/GC(III)/INF.7 and UNEP/GC(IV)/INF.4, respectively.

1. Requests the Executive Director to ensure balanced representation at seminars from all countries concerned with the relevant industries, from intergovernmental organizations and from international non-governmental organizations such as those representing workers or employers in the relevant industry;

2. Calls upon such Governments and organizations to give full support to future seminars;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to arrange a consultative meeting with experts nominated by interested Governments and relevant organizations to discuss the objectives of the programme in relation to the environmental problems of specific industries and to evaluate the progress being made towards these objectives, including the arrangements made for follow-up and avoidance of duplication with the work of other international organizations, and to report to the Governing Council at its fifth session in the light of the conclusions of this meeting.

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13 April 1976

58 (IV). Oceans: regional agreements

The Governing Council,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on the review of activities relating to the environment programme, the review of the status of the programme and proposed Fund programme activities, 1976-1977, 24/

Noting that the Governments of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have a mutual interest in protecting from pollution the marine area to which they are all adjacent,

Noting further that the interest these States share with respect to the marine environment is purely of a regional nature,

1. Decides that immediate steps are necessary to protect the marine area mentioned above from pollution by oil from ships and sea-bed exploration and exploitation, and from pollution resulting from industrialization in the context of development activities;

2. Authorizes the Executive Director to pursue these objectives aided by any other specialized organization of the United Nations;

3. Approves the action of the Government of Kuwait in proceeding with

24/ UNEP/GC/60, UNEP/GC/61 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1, Add.2 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.3, and UNEP/GC/62 and Corr.1, respectively.

preparatory work for convening a regional conference to protect the area in question against pollution, which may give rise to an agreement entitled:

"Kuwait Regional Agreement for Co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution"

or such other words as may be decided upon at the time of the conference.

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59 (IV). Protection of whales

The Governing Council

Requests the Executive Director to approach the International Whaling Commission in order to:

- (a) Express the satisfaction of the Governing Council at recent advances in stock management;
- (b) Urge increased efforts for appropriate controls of further exploitation of whales at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission;
- (c) Re-emphasize concern with the conservation of whales as a global renewable resource.

57th meeting
13 April 1976

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind the strategy for energy as approved by the Governing Council at its third and fourth sessions, 25/

Considering that energy is an important element in the priority subject areas selected for concentrated effort under the programme, such as rational use of resources, environmentally sound technology, human settlements and ecodevelopment,

Noting that the technology for the utilization of solar, wind, geothermal and other non-conventional energy sources applies equally to arid and semi-arid regions,

Aware that the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Desertification will be seeking appropriate technology to control and reclaim the desert,

Recalling its decision 34 (III) of 2 May 1975 to establish a few demonstration centres harnessing renewable resources of energy for meeting the basic energy needs of the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America,

Appreciating the action of the Executive Director in selecting a few sites for the establishment of such demonstration centres,

1. Requests the Executive Director, in co-operation with the relevant United Nations bodies, to accelerate an active programme involving the rational utilization of renewable resources for energy generation which will have a positive impact on rural development, consistent with environmentally sound practices;

2. Urges the Executive Director to further the support of the United Nations Environment Programme for national and regional projects for harnessing renewable energy resources and authorizes him, in the light of the experience being acquired, to carry out a study on the possibility of establishing a programme activity centre on the subject and to report to the Governing Council at its fifth session on the results of his study;

3. Further urges the Executive Director to submit the relevant proposals to the United Nations Conference on Desertification;

4. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present decision.

57th meeting
13 April 1976

25/ UNEP/GC/31/Add.1, para. 4, and UNEP/GC/61, para. 213.

61 (IV). Natural disasters

The Governing Council,

Concerned over the wide-ranging economic and social impact of natural disasters,

Recalling the recommendation of the seventh special session of the General Assembly calling upon the international community to pay special attention to natural disasters, which have severe economic, social and structural consequences, particularly in the least developed countries, 26/

Convinced that a concerted effort can and should be made to reduce the risk of natural disasters, which is inherent in the physical environment of many countries,

Recalling further the support given by the General Assembly to the formulation of an international strategy for disaster prevention, 27/

1. Decides that the following element shall be added to the strategy for natural disasters: 28/ "Early warning, prevention and mitigation of natural disasters, including support for the formulation of the international strategy for disaster prevention";

2. Authorizes the Executive Director to accelerate, between the fourth and fifth sessions of the Governing Council, the programme activities relating to the prevention, mitigation and control of natural disasters;

3. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To consider and submit to the Governing Council at its fifth session proposals for increasing the allocation in 1977 for the priority area of natural disasters to meet the additional strategy element referred to in paragraph 1 above;

(b) To introduce disaster prevention dimensions into other areas of the environment programme, especially those relating to human settlements and health;

(c) To continue to co-operate closely in this field with the various United Nations bodies and agencies concerned;

(d) To report to the Governing Council at its fifth session, together with the Level One review on natural disasters, on the implementation of the present decision.

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26/ General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, sect. II, para. 14.

27/ General Assembly resolution 3440 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, para. 5.

28/ UNEP/GC/61, para. 218.

62 (IV). Regret at the disaster suffered by Guatemala

The Governing Council

1. Expresses its profound regret at the terrible earthquake disaster suffered by the Republic of Guatemala, which has caused enormous loss of human life and vast material damage;

2. Decides to encourage all bodies of the United Nations system to render Guatemala as much assistance as possible, within the limits of the provisions governing their competence, in order to mitigate the damage sustained by the natural and urban environment in that country, and to contribute to preventing similar disasters in the future;

3. Instructs the Executive Director to contact the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the Government of Guatemala for the purpose of deciding what steps can be taken, and to communicate the present decision to the Government of Guatemala.

57th meeting
13 April 1976

63 (IV). Earthwatch

The Governing Council,

Continuing to recognize the major importance of Earthwatch to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To urge the Environment Co-ordination Board to establish as soon as possible subgroups on Earthwatch-related research and evaluation in its Working Group on Earthwatch;

(b) To develop and initiate the implementation of an integrated evaluation programme and interdisciplinary research programme as interacting component parts of Earthwatch, along with the Global Environmental Monitoring System, the International Referral System and the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, and to report on progress in this respect to the Governing Council at its fifth session;

(c) To develop for presentation to the Governing Council at its fifth session an over-all plan for the Global Environmental Monitoring System which discusses:

(i) How the seven goals of the System will be integrated with one another, and the short-range and long-range implementation plans for each goal area;

(ii) The priority variables to be the subject of global monitoring within each goal area;

(iii) The flow of data from collection to final assessment;

(d) Request Governments to accelerate their activities in relation to the International Referral System, and in particular to submit sources of environmental information to the United Nations Environment Programme as soon as possible.

57th meeting
13 April 1976

64 (IV). Earthwatch: sulphur dioxide and other pollutants

The Governing Council,

Noting that a regional programme for monitoring and evaluation of the long-range transport of sulphur dioxide and other pollutants is under preparation under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe, in co-operation with the World Meteorological Organization,

Noting further that this programme would constitute an important regional contribution to the effort to ensure through the Global Environmental Monitoring System that data on selected significant environmental variables are collected in a systematic and continuous manner for the purpose of providing an evaluation of any observed short- and long-term trends in these critical variables,

Requests the Executive Director to take appropriate measures to ensure the co-operation of the United Nations Environment Programme with the above programme.

57th meeting
13 April 1976

65 (IV). Study of the ozone layer

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the potential impact that stratospheric pollution and a reduction in the ozone layer may have on mankind,

Noting with appreciation the statement on ozone by the representative of the World Meteorological Organization,

Further noting the plans of the World Meteorological Organization to execute, in co-ordination with other international organizations concerned, a project on ozone layer monitoring and research,

Conscious that other international organizations and individual Governments are also working on aspects of the ozone layer and stratospheric pollution,

Requests the Executive Director to convene a meeting of appropriate international, governmental and non-governmental organizations to review all aspects of the ozone layer, identify related ongoing activities and future plans, and agree

on a division of labour and a co-ordinating mechanism for, inter alia, the compilation of research activities and future plans and the collection of related industrial and commercial information, and to report to the Governing Council at its fifth session on the results of the meeting.

57th meeting
13 April 1976

66 (IV). Environmental law

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind its decision 35 (III) of 2 May 1975,

Noting with satisfaction the objectives and strategies relating to the programme of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of environmental law,

Requests the Executive Director to continue, together with existing activities in this area:

(a) The systematic collection, analysis and presentation of data and information relating to activities and international conventions and agreements in the field of environment, in collaboration with other organizations within and outside the United Nations system involved in similar activities;

(b) The development of the relevant principles contained in the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, 29/ in particular through studies by a group of governmental and other experts on the specific aspects of the problem relating to liability for pollution and other environmental damage and compensation for such damage, taking into account inter alia the progress made in the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Natural Resources Shared by Two or More States as well as the relevant work of other international governmental and non-governmental organizations and forums, especially that of the International Law Commission;

(c) The promotion of international agreements or conventions to deal with global and regional environmental concerns, as well as with specific environmental problems in given geographical contexts, and efforts to encourage international forums and organizations to take the environmental law aspect into account in their work;

(d) The provision of technical assistance and appropriate guidelines to countries, at their request, for the development of their legislation for the purposes of environmental planning and control;

29/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment
(United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. I.

(e) The encouragement of universities and other research institutions to include, in their curricula and work, studies of the principles and practice of environmental law.

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13 April 1976

67 (IV). Status of conventions

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the continuing validity and urgency of the objective of completely eliminating the wilful and intentional pollution of the seas by oil and other noxious substances, and of minimizing accidental spills,

Recalling that the International Conference on Marine Pollution held in London in 1973 considered the implementation of the 1969 Amendments 30/ to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil of 12 May 1954 to be a major step towards the complete elimination of oil pollution,

Recalling also that the 1973 Conference and the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization at its ninth session have urged States to accept the 1969 Amendments as a matter of urgency, without awaiting the entry into force of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships of 2 November 1973, 31/

Noting that the 1969 Amendments are not yet in force, because too few States have so far accepted them,

1. Urges States which have not yet accepted the 1969 Amendments to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil to do so without delay;

2. Further urges States to become parties as soon as possible to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships;

3. Requests the Executive Director to bring the present decision to the attention of Governments.

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30/ Done at London on 21 October 1969. See International Legal Materials, vol. 9, p. 1, 1970. For the text of the Convention, see United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 327, No. 4714, p. 3.

31/ ST/LEG/SER.B/18/Add.2, p. 318.

68 (IV). Training and technical assistance

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on training and technical assistance on problems related to the environment, 32/

1. Requests the Executive Director to pursue the study of problems and matters related to the environment on which Governments of developing countries would be interested in receiving training and technical assistance, requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 3326 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, and to present his recommendations based on that study to the Governing Council at its fifth session;

2. Notes, taking into account the relationship of training and technical assistance to the various priority subject areas and the most appropriate ways of dealing with them, the criteria set by the Executive Director for the provision of technical assistance.

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13 April 1976

69 (IV). Management of Fund programme activities 33/

The Governing Council,

Noting the desirability of designing ways to ensure the systematic financing of the implementation of the Fund programme,

1. Requests the Executive Director, in managing the Fund programme, and bearing in mind the special needs of developing countries, to give prior consideration to:

(a) Continuation of activities for which firm commitments have already been entered into, provided the Executive Director is satisfied that adequate progress towards their objectives is being made;

(b) Activities resulting from decisions of the Governing Council;

(c) Activities in the environmental field resulting from resolutions of the General Assembly;

(d) Activities required for the conclusion or effective implementation of international conventions in the field of the environment;

32/ UNEP/GC/81.

33/ See also decision 76 A (IV) below.

2. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its fifth session on the implementation of the present decision.

57th meeting
13 April 1976

70 (IV). Allocation of resources for Fund programme activities

The Governing Council,

Having reviewed the proposal of the Executive Director as outlined in his note on proposed Fund programme activities, 1976-1977, 34/

Taking into account the terms of its decisions on the level of Fund programme activities, 1976-1977 35/ and on management of Fund programme activities, 36/

1. Decides to apportion the allocation for Fund programme activities as follows:

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
Human settlements and human health	6,300,000	7,150,000
Ecosystems	8,190,000	9,250,000
Environment and development	3,600,000	3,600,000
Oceans	3,600,000	3,150,000
Energy	550,000	600,000
Natural disasters	200,000	300,000
Earthwatch	3,400,000	3,350,000
Environmental management	450,000	550,000
Environmental law	300,000	300,000
Support	5,910,000	6,250,000
United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation	1,500,000	1,200,000
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	<u>\$34,000,000</u>	<u>\$35,700,000</u>

34/ UNEP/GC/62 and Corr.1.

35/ Decision 76 A (IV).

36/ Decision 69 (IV).

2. Authorizes the Executive Director to adjust the apportionment of funds up to a maximum of 20 per cent on each line if this should be necessary to preserve the integrity of the programme;

3. Recalls its decision 36 (III) of 2 May 1975, in paragraph 5 of which it authorized the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments of up to \$9 million for the year 1978 and up to \$4 million for the year 1979.

57th meeting
13 April 1976

71 (IV). Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements

The Governing Council,

Having considered the progress report by the Secretary-General of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, 37/

Noting with satisfaction the progress made in the preparations for the Conference,

Realizing that it will be the responsibility of the Habitat Conference to formulate specific recommendations, inter alia for further action with respect to the post-Conference use of audio-visual material prepared for the Conference,

1. Recommends that Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements consider favourably the offer made by the Government of Canada regarding the post-Conference use and dissemination of the audio-visual material prepared for the Conference;

2. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ensure that all preparations are made for the evaluation of, and immediate follow-up to, the audio-visual programme of the Conference, should the Conference decide on such an activity;

3. Requests the authorities concerned within the United Nations to give every support to the Secretary-General in the efforts called for in paragraph 2 above;

4. Authorizes the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, should this prove necessary and subject to the availability of funds, to allocate funds during 1976 in the amount of up to \$75,000 to permit, after consultations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the necessary extensions of contracts of members of the Habitat secretariat in order to support such recommendations as the Habitat Conference may make for:

37/ UNEP/GC/63.

- (a) The immediate post-Conference follow-up to the audio-visual programme;
- (b) The immediate dissemination of information on the Conference.

54th meeting
9 April 1976

72 (IV). United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

The Governing Council

I

1. Takes note of the Executive Director's progress report 38/ on the implementation of the plan and programme of operations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;
2. Requests the Executive Director to take into account the views of member States expressed at the fourth session of the Governing Council in further developing the programme of activities of the Foundation, and to proceed in all appropriate ways to assess the needs of member States for assistance by the Foundation and to encourage voluntary contributions and other offers of support, making full use of the Advisory Board of the Foundation in this regard;
3. Decides to defer decision on the matter of setting a total target for voluntary contributions to the Foundation by Governments for consideration at its fifth session;

II

1. Approves the general procedures governing the operations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, 39/ as amended during the debate at its fourth session and reproduced in the annex to the present decision;
2. Decides to review the general procedures at its fifth session in the light of experience gained and developments during the intervening period;

III

1. Notes with approval the budget report of the Executive Director on the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 1975-1977; 40/
2. Requests the Executive Director to take account of the comments made during the debate on the report at the fourth session of the Governing Council;
3. /Also/ requests the Executive Director to report further on this subject to the Governing Council at its fifth session.

55th and 56th meetings
12 and 13 April 1976

38/ UNEP/GC/65.

39/ UNEP/GC/66.

40/ UNEP/GC/64.

ANNEX

General procedures governing the operations of the United Nations
Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

Article I. Definitions

Section A. Definitions

For the purposes of these general procedures:

- (a) "Foundation" shall mean the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;
- (b) "Governing Council" shall mean the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;
- (c) "Government" shall mean the Government of any State that is eligible for membership in the Governing Council;
- (d) "Executive Director" shall mean the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme;
- (e) "Administrator" shall mean the Administrator of the Foundation;
- (f) "Project" shall mean an activity separately identified within the programme of activities, to be carried out for a specific purpose and a definite period of time;
- (g) "Programme of activities" shall mean a plan of activities including areas for projects in which the Foundation is to be involved, whether financed partially or wholly by the Foundation, and including pre-programme activities;
- (h) "Programme support costs" shall mean the costs of administration and management of the programme of activities, covering programme development and evaluation, and technical and administrative support of projects.

Article II. Objectives

Section B. Primary operative objectives

The primary operative objectives of the Foundation shall be to assist in strengthening national environmental programmes relating to human settlements, particularly in the developing countries, giving special consideration to those countries where there is clear indication of greater need for improvement of habitat and human settlements conditions, through the provision of seed capital and the extension of the necessary technical and financial assistance to permit an effective mobilization of domestic resources for human habitat and environmental design and improvement of human settlements, including:

(a) Stimulating innovative approaches to pre-investment pre-project and financing strategies for human settlements activities, while drawing on the accumulated practical experience of both the public and private sectors for mobilization of financial resources for human habitat and human settlements projects;

(b) Organizing technical assistance services in human settlements and human habitat management, including training facilities and human habitat projects;

(c) Promoting the adaptation and transfer of appropriate scientific and technical knowledge on human settlements projects.

Article III. Organs of the Foundation

Section C. Governing Council and Executive Director

Under the authority and guidance of the Governing Council, the Executive Director shall be responsible for the general direction of the Foundation and for providing the necessary technical and financial services related to the Foundation. He shall be responsible to the Council for all phases and aspects of the operations and the financial resources of the Foundation.

Section D. The Administrator

1. The Executive Director shall appoint the Administrator of the Foundation, who shall have the rank of Assistant Secretary-General.

2. The Administrator shall be responsible to the Executive Director for the operation and management of the Foundation and its resources.

Section E. The Advisory Board

1. The Executive Director shall appoint an Advisory Board of about 15 members who will serve in their personal capacity and will be chosen on an equitable and representative basis. The Board shall meet under the chairmanship of the Executive Director. Members of the Board shall be appointed for a period of two years and may be subject to reappointment.

2. The Board shall advise the Executive Director and the Administrator on the operations of the Foundation.

Article IV. Resources

Section F. Initial funding

The Foundation is to receive over a four-year period from 1 January 1975, an allocation of \$4 million from the Environment Fund.

Section G. Voluntary contributions

1. The resources of the Foundation shall be derived from voluntary contributions from Governments, from United Nations bodies and other international and regional institutions, as well as from private sources.

2. Voluntary contributions may be pledged at any time, either on an annual basis or, whenever possible, for a number of years.

3. The Executive Director shall from time to time, at the request of the Governing Council, and with the authority delegated to him by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, convene pledging conferences at which Governments may announce their contributions to the Foundation.

Section H. Participation in the United Nations Development Programme

The Foundation may administer, as an executing agency, funds made available for projects by the United Nations Development Programme.

Article V. Programme activities

Section I. Preparation of the programme

The Executive Director shall biennially prepare and submit to the Governing Council a programme of activities with estimates of resources and expenditures. This programme shall indicate in general terms the projects to be carried out during the period to which it relates.

Section J. Approval of the programme

The Governing Council shall consider and approve the programme of activities, and shall allocate from the estimated resources of the Foundation funds to cover the following main categories of expenditures:

- (a) Projects;
- (b) Programme support costs.

Article VI. Projects

Section K. Design of projects

1. The Executive Director, upon request from and in collaboration with the Governments concerned, shall formulate projects within the primary operative objective of the Foundation, in accordance with policy directives issued by the Governing Council pursuant to section N below. Projects may be of an operational or of a research, technical assistance, training or demonstrational character.

2. Projects may be designed to be carried out entirely by the Foundation, or in collaboration with other international or national agencies. In the selection of such agencies particular attention shall be given to the capacity available within the United Nations system.

Section L. Project documents

1. For each project, a project document shall be drawn up describing all financial, technical, managerial and other resources required for the successful implementation of the project, and stating clearly the responsibility for providing these resources from the Foundation, from participating Governments and from other agencies.

2. The project document shall be agreed to by the Executive Director on behalf of the Foundation, and by the Governments and agencies concerned.

Section M. Approval of projects

Each project shall be approved by the Executive Director, except that approval of the Governing Council shall be required for projects that:

(a) The Governing Council has indicated it wishes to consider itself;

(b) The Executive Director has submitted to the Council for consideration because of their policy implications or magnitude.

Section N. General policies

1. The Governing Council shall issue policy directives with a view to ensuring that the resources of the Foundation are utilized with maximum efficiency and effectiveness in pursuance of its primary operative objective.

2. The Executive Director shall establish programmes, guidelines and directives in connexion with investments for the environmental design and improvement of the human habitat and human settlements, in both urban and rural areas.

Section O. The Administrator and the staff of the Foundation

1. The staff of the Foundation shall be appointed for service specifically with the Foundation by the Executive Director, on the advice of the Appointment and Promotion Board of the United Nations Environment Programme pending the establishment of the Appointment and Promotion Board of the Foundation itself.

2. The appointment and promotion of the staff of the Foundation shall be subject to the provisions of the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules of the United Nations.

Section P. Trust funds

The Executive Director may establish trust funds to carry out specific purposes consistent with the primary operative objectives of the Foundation, which shall be administered in accordance with the financial rules of the Foundation.

Section Q. Reports

The Executive Director shall submit annual and, as appropriate, special reports to the Governing Council indicating:

- (a) The status of the resources of the Foundation;
- (b) The execution of the programme of activities;
- (c) The approval and execution of all projects.

Section R. Co-operation with other agencies

The Foundation shall maintain close working contacts with other international and regional bodies within and outside the United Nations system, particularly with financial institutions, as well as with bilateral and other national, private and public organizations whose interests and operations relate to human settlements activities.

73 (IV). United Nations Conference on Desertification

The Governing Council,

Having considered, in its capacity as the preparatory body for the United Nations Conference on Desertification, the report of the Executive Director 41/ on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3337 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 on international co-operation to combat desertification,

1. Approves the proposals of the Executive Director concerning the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Desertification as they appear in his report;

2. Requests the Executive Director to take into account during these preparations the comments made by the various delegations during the debate at the fourth session of the Governing Council, particularly regarding the conciseness and clearness of the documents prepared for the Conference, the action-oriented nature of the recommendations to be included in the plan of action and the need for very early consultations with Governments on the contents of the various documents, especially the draft plan of action;

3. Calls upon the Governments concerned to co-operate fully with the secretariat of the Conference in the preparation of the case studies and in the consideration of the feasibility of the proposed transnational activities;

4. Approves the draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference 42/ for presentation to the Conference as the provisional rules for adoption under item 2 of its provisional agenda;

5. Invites the General Assembly at its thirty-first session to request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to assume the responsibility of Secretary-General of the Conference, in addition to his other responsibilities as Executive Director;

6. Invites the General Assembly at its thirty-first session, when considering the administrative and financial implications for the United Nations regular budget of servicing the Conference, to give favourable consideration to authorizing the inclusion of Arabic as a working language of the Conference;

7. Further invites the General Assembly at its thirty-first session to approve the extension of invitations to the United Nations Conference on Desertification to all States and liberation movements in accordance with its established practice, to interested specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations indicating an interest to participate, and to those non-governmental organizations in consultative status with, the Economic and Social Council which inform the Executive Director of their interest in being represented by observers;

41/ UNEP/GC/67 and Add.1, Add.2 and Corr.1 and Add.3.

42/ UNEP/GC/67/Add.1.

8. Agrees to the draft provisional agenda for the Conference, 43/ subject to items 2-6 (a) being incorporated into one item entitled "Organization of the work of the Conference", and recommends that the General Assembly at its thirty-first session approve the draft provisional agenda thus modified for presentation to the Conference for adoption;

9. Approves the financial implications of the preparations for the Conference and decides:

(a) To allocate from the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, towards the preparations for the Conference, the sum of \$1,023,500 in 1976 and \$1 million in 1977;

(b) To request the Executive Director to provide the Governing Council, at its fifth session, with a precise accounting of the allocation for 1976;

(c) To consider at its fifth session a revised estimate of the financial implications of the preparations for the Conference, on the basis of a report by the Executive Director on progress made during the period between the fourth and fifth sessions of the Governing Council, together with a detailed plan of expenditure during the year 1977;

10. Notes that the amount of \$392,500 under Fund programme activities forms part of the approved allocation for terrestrial ecosystems, their management and control for 1976-1977;

11. Urges the Executive Director, while ensuring maximum efficiency of the preparations for this very important Conference, to exert every effort to economize on the expenditure from the sums allocated according to paragraph 9 (a) above.

57th meeting
13 April 1976

74 (IV). Financial and budgetary matters

The Governing Council

I

Rationale for the allocation of the expenses of the
United Nations Environment Programme

Takes note of the note by the Executive Director on the distribution of staff costs between the regular budget of the United Nations and the programme and programme support costs of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme; 44/

43/ See annex II below.

44/ UNEP/GC/70.

II

Financial report and accounts

1. Takes note of and approves the financial report and accounts of the United Nations Environment Programme for the year ended 31 December 1974, 45/ and takes note of the comments of the Executive Director on the audit opinion of the Board of Auditors 46/ and on the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 47/ as set forth in his report;
2. Takes note of paragraph 4 of the note by the Executive Director on the financial report and accounts of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme for the year ended 31 December 1975; 48/
3. Endorses the Executive Director's utilization of savings under the programme and programme support costs of the Fund, which has resulted in an overexpenditure of \$269,986 against the appropriation for furniture and equipment to provide for requirements of furniture, equipment and other essential requirements arising from the move to temporary premises;

III

Headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme
and the construction of temporary premises

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme and the construction of temporary premises, 49/ particularly paragraphs 4 and 7;
2. Expresses its deep appreciation to the Government of Kenya for its substantial financial contribution and its co-operation and support in the planning and construction of the temporary premises;
3. Decides that revenue derived from rental charges shall be applied towards repayment of the amount of \$1,150,000 advanced from the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme until the latter is fully repaid, and that thenceforth all such income shall be credited to miscellaneous income;
4. Authorizes an increase of \$221,000 in the programme and programme support costs budget of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 1976-1977 for the architectural and engineering study of the construction of a permanent headquarters for the United Nations Environment Programme at

45/ UNEP/GC/71.

46/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 7F (A/10007/Add.6), chaps. I-III.

47/ A/10239, paras. 18-20.

48/ UNEP/GC/L.35.

49/ UNEP/GC/68/Add.2.

Nairobi, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 13 of its report. 50/

55th meeting
12 April 1976

75 (IV). Matters relating to the implementation of the Fund programme

The Governing Council

I

Implementation of the Fund programme

Takes note of the report on the implementation of the Fund programme in 1975 51/ and requests the Executive Director to take appropriate account of the comments made during the debate, as reflected in the report of the Governing Council on its fourth session;

II

Methodology for the evaluation of Fund programme activities

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the methodology for the evaluation of Fund programme activities; 52/
2. Requests the Executive Director to be guided, in the evaluation of projects, by the comments made during the debate, as reflected in the report of the Governing Council on its fourth session;
3. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at subsequent sessions on the results of evaluation carried out, and on developments in the application of the methodology referred to in paragraph 1 above.

55th meeting
12 April 1976

50/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 8A (A/10008/Add.1-28), document A/10008/Add.14.

51/ UNEP/GC/68 and Corr.1.

52/ UNEP/GC/83.

76 (IV). The Fund programme

A. Approval of the level of Fund programme activities in 1976-1977 53/

The Governing Council,

Recalling section VI of its decision 42 (III) of 30 April and 2 May 1975 regarding the approval of the Fund programme in 1975 and 1976-1977,

1. Authorizes the allocation of \$34 million in 1976 and \$35.7 million in 1977 for Fund programme activities;
2. Instructs the Executive Director, in managing the resources of the Programme, to be guided by the anticipated cash inflows of voluntary contributions and to take due account of the level of available resources, and of the currency composition of those resources, in order to avoid a deficit situation.

55th meeting
12 April 1976

B. Approval of the Fund programme for 1976-1977

The Governing Council,

Firmly convinced of the international importance of environmental concerns,

Satisfied that the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme has played an important catalytic role in the initiation and support of activities aimed at the preservation and improvement of the environment, *

Aware that payments to the Fund have fallen seriously behind the pace of Fund programme activities,

1. Approves the Fund programme for the years 1976 and 1977 proposed by the Executive Director 54/ in the context of the medium-term plan for the period 1976-1979 as approved by the Governing Council in section V, paragraph 1, of its decision 42 (III) of 30 April and 2 May 1975;
2. Decides to review at its fifth session the Fund programme for the years 1978 and 1979 in the context of its review and approval of the medium-term plan for the period 1978-1981;
3. Appeals to Governments which have not pledged contributions to the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme to do so generously within their capacities;

53/ See also decision 69 (IV) above.

54/ UNEP/GC/73/Corr.2, table 1, "Proposed allocation of resources, 1973-1979".

4. Urges Governments which have announced pledges to pay their pledges fully and promptly;

5. Requests Governments which have already pledged contributions to consider increasing the amount of their pledges, in the light of the demonstrated capacity of the Fund to perform the tasks assigned to it and taking into account the demands placed on it;

6. Further requests Governments which have announced pledges for an initial period ending in 1977 to consider the level of their pledges beyond that year;

7. Requests the Executive Director to review with Governments both the level and the terms of their voluntary contributions, taking into account rule 203.4 of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, with a view to obtaining increased resources which would permit the full implementation of the medium-term plan, and to report to the Governing Council at its fifth session on the results of this review;

8. Further requests the Executive Director, in view of the limited level of the financial reserve and of the difficulty of obtaining payment of voluntary contributions in the first quarter of the year, to ensure the availability of adequate resources to be carried over from 1976 to 1977.

55th meeting
12 April 1976

77 (IV). Co-operation in the field of the environment concerning natural resources shared by two or more States

The Governing Council,

Having considered the progress report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Natural Resources Shared by Two or More States 55/ on draft principles of conduct in the field of the environment for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious exploitation of natural resources shared by two or more States,

Recalling its decision 44 (III) of 25 April 1975, establishing the Working Group,

1. Expresses satisfaction at the progress made by the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Natural Resources Shared by Two or More States in the preparation of draft principles of conduct in the field of the environment for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious exploitation of such natural resources;

2. Takes note of the report of the Working Group on the progress made at its first session, held at Nairobi from 12 to 22 January 1976;

55/ UNEP/GC/74.

3. Decides that the Working Group shall continue its work in 1976, and if necessary in 1977;
4. Authorizes the Executive Director to reconvene the Working Group;
5. Notes that the membership of the Working Group will remain unchanged;
6. Requests the Working Group to submit a report for consideration by the Governing Council at its fifth session, in order that it may be submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

51st meeting
6 April 1976

78 (IV). Institutional arrangements

A. Review of institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation

The Governing Council,

Recalling that the General Assembly, by section IV of its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, decided to review as appropriate, at its thirty-first session, the institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation,

Taking note of the relevant sections of the report of the Executive Director on the review of the institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation, 56/

Taking account of the views of Governments as expressed in writing to the Executive Director and of the views expressed at the informal consultations held in Nairobi on 28 and 29 January 1976, all of which views are reflected in the Executive Director's report,

I

Decides to advise the General Assembly at its thirty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, that in its view the institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation contained in Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) - that is the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Environment secretariat, the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Environment Co-ordination Board - appear, after less than four years of operation, adequate and sound, and therefore should not be changed at this stage,

II

1. Recognizes that there is nevertheless scope for improving methods of work without altering the established institutional arrangements;
2. Decides that, while continuing to meet annually, the Governing Council will, in adopting its agenda for its next and subsequent sessions, consider phasing items so that some issues are dealt with at length only at alternate sessions;
3. Further decides that, when considering requests to the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme, due regard will be given to the implications of such requests for the efficiency of the work of the Governing Council and the secretariat;

56/ UNEP/GC/75, parts I and II.

4. Reaffirms its view that the Programme should avoid involvement in any new long-term activities of a primarily executive character without the approval of the Governing Council;

5. Takes note of the Executive Director's intention to submit to the Governing Council at its fifth session proposals for a modest increase in staff, without departing from the principle of a small secretariat;

6. Notes with appreciation the Executive Director's efforts to bring about a better balance in the Fund programme, from the point of view of the size of projects, the participation of co-operating agencies and supporting institutions and the execution of internal projects, and national, regional and global projects;

7. Endorses the Executive Director's views on the catalytic function of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and hence the need for a close association between the Fund and the Bureau of the Programme;

8. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director and the report of the Environment Co-ordination Board, 57/ which demonstrate that the Board is already a useful instrument of programme co-ordination within the United Nations system in the environmental field, and of the plans of the Executive Director and the Board to develop further this aspect of the Board's work.

59th meeting
14 April 1976

B. Possible restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system

The Governing Council,

Recalling its mandate under General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972,

Recalling further that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, established by the General Assembly in resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, will report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session,

Taking note of the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Executive Director on the review of the institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation, 58/

57/ UNEP/GC/59 and Corr.1.

58/ UNEP/GC/75, part III, paras. 92-109.

Taking account of the views of Governments as expressed in writing to the Executive Director and of the views expressed at the informal consultations held in Nairobi on 28 and 29 January 1976, all of which views are reflected in the Executive Director's report,

Believing that its views should be framed within the confines of environmental concerns and recognizing that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly have a broader mandate to review all the economic and social sectors of the United Nations,

Decides to recommend to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, that whatever may be decided about the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, the following elements relating to the place of environmental considerations within the system should be observed, strengthened and given institutional visibility:

"The United Nations system should maintain, within a clearly identified institutional arrangement focused on the essential catalytic and co-ordinating role in the field of the environment, the capacity to:

- (a) Take responsibility for environmental issues of a global nature;
- (b) Provide guidance and leadership in international environmental affairs;
- (c) Offer suitable forums and facilities for treaty-making in the field of the environment at the global and regional levels;
- (d) Identify, through the programmatic approach, emerging environmental problems and propose solutions;
- (e) Manage a separate environment fund as an integral part of the programmatic process;
- (f) Advocate and articulate the interdependence of environment and development;
- (g) Respond to the environmental problems of both developed and developing countries;
- (h) Respond to the environmental problems of human settlements, which are an integral part of the human environment."

59th meeting
14 April 1976

C. Review of the institutional arrangements for human settlements

The Governing Council,

Aware that Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, to be held at Vancouver in May and June 1976, will consider recommendations for the future organization of institutional arrangements within the United Nations system for human settlements,

Taking note of the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Executive Director on the review of the institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation, 59/

Taking account of the views expressed at the informal consultations held in Nairobi on 28 and 29 January 1976, which are reflected in the Executive Director's report, and of the views expressed by the Governing Council at its various sessions,

1. Invites, without prejudice to the results of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, the delegations participating in that Conference to take the following into account when considering the institutional arrangements for human settlements within the United Nations system:

(a) The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm in June 1972, proclaimed that both aspects of man's environment, the natural and the man-made, were essential to his well-being and to the enjoyment of basic human rights, even the right to life itself. The first recommendation of the Conference 60/ emphasized that the planning, improvement and management of rural and urban settlements demanded an approach, at all levels, embracing every aspect of the human environment, both natural and man-made;

(b) The linkage between the man-made environment and the natural environment is of prime importance, and their interrelationship must be considered in all forums dealing with international co-operation in order to ensure the improvement of the quality of life of all peoples;

2. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations to present to the Habitat Conference specific options regarding institutional arrangements, based on technical and administrative studies.

59th meeting
14 April 1976

59/ UNEP/GC/75, part III, paras. 110-117.

60/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. II, sect. B, p. 6.

The Governing Council,

Having considered the interim reports of the Executive Director on environment and development, the environmental impact of the irrational and wasteful use of natural resources and ecodevelopment, and the relevant implementation strategies, 61/

Recognizing the importance to present and future generations of environmentally sound development,

Conscious of the relationship between such development and the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 62/ the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States 63/ and the recommendations made by the General Assembly at its seventh special session regarding development and international economic co-operation, 64/ as adopted,

Aware that the preservation of a sound environment is an essential element of development conceived as a global improvement of the quality of human life,

Further aware that appropriate technology is a constantly varying concept because of the dynamism of technological innovations, the continuing assessment of which is difficult for the developing countries,

Recognizing further the relevance of ecodevelopment in planning for both development and long-term sustainable use of the environment, and noting the preliminary conclusions contained in paragraph 30 of the Executive Director's report on ecodevelopment, 65/

Concerned at the inadequate consideration of environmental implications in recent discussions of development by the international community,

Recalling section II, paragraph 7, of its decision 20 (III) of 2 May 1975, by which it approved the suggestion of the Executive Director regarding the environmental elements which should be included in the criteria for the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Aware that the forthcoming fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, the United Nations Water Conference and the United Nations Conference on Desertification, will have an important bearing on the development of the concept of environment and development,

61/ UNEP/GC/76, UNEP/GC/79, UNEP/GC/80 and UNEP/GC/61, respectively.

62/ General Assembly resolution 3201 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974.

63/ General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974.

64/ General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975.

65/ UNEP/GC/80.

1. Appeals to States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency to reaffirm their commitment to the integration of environmental considerations in the context of development planning;

2. Urges the governing bodies of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other organizations of the United Nations system to take environmental considerations fully into account in making their recommendations for new goals and objectives for the remainder of the Second United Nations Development Decade;

3. Requests the Executive Director, taking into consideration the views expressed by the delegations at the fourth session of the Governing Council, to devote increased attention to the relationship between environment and development, including research into development of appropriate institutions, the implementation of relevant management techniques and the convening of regional and subregional intergovernmental meetings and seminars;

4. Authorizes the Executive Director to convene an intergovernmental expert group meeting in 1976 to consider, in the light of the comments of Governments and the observations made during the consideration of the subject at the fourth session of the Governing Council, the subject-matter of his reports on environment and development and on ecodevelopment, and his report on the environmental impact of the irrational and wasteful use of natural resources, with a view to preparing agreed criteria for assessing that environmental impact;

5. Draws the attention of the Executive Director to the desirability, within the over-all context of the programme and subject to the availability of funds, of giving special attention, as appropriate, to:

(a) Promoting the development of methodologies and parameters for assessing the environmental costs and benefits of development, including the social costs;

(b) Encouraging research in all countries, both developed and developing, aimed at promoting the rational use of natural resources, the development of appropriate technologies and a better understanding of the environmental impact of degradable and non-degradable toxic substances;

(c) Continuing to promote, in co-operation with the United Nations bodies concerned, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, studies based on ecodevelopment research and pilot projects, and to disseminate on a regular basis to Governments information on ecodevelopment, in particular the results of pilot projects carried out in this field;

(d) Promoting the development of methodology for environmentally sound rural and urban planning, and encouraging the establishment of a network of information exchanges among existing institutions interested in exchanging information on the subject;

(e) Developing, in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme, other United Nations bodies and international financial institutions, techniques

and methods of appraising the environmental aspects and foreseeable impacts of development programmes and projects;

6. Further requests the Executive Director:

(a) To prepare for submission to the Governing Council at its fifth session the reports of the meetings held in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 above, together with his views and recommendations on how to implement the conclusions arrived at in those meetings;

(b) To submit a report indicating the level and the ways and means of assisting developing countries, in collaboration with the appropriate United Nations agencies, in establishing or upgrading, as appropriate, their standards for control of technological innovations on the basis of the observations contained in the fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs above;

(c) To inform the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, at its fourth session, of the work being done by the United Nations Environment Programme in the subject area environment and development, and of the relevant decisions of the Governing Council at its fourth session.

59th meeting
14 April 1976

80 (IV). Study of the problem of the material remnants of wars, particularly mines, and their effect on the environment

The Governing Council,

Having considered the note by the Executive Director on the study of the problem of the material remnants of wars, particularly mines, and their effect on the environment, 66/

Recalling paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 3435 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

Realizing that the Governing Council has the responsibility to deal with the problem of the effect of mines on the human environment,

1. Takes note of the views regarding the scope of the study required by the above-mentioned resolution, as set out by the Executive Director in his note;

2. Welcomes the efforts currently being undertaken in the context of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, and urges that the discussions now taking place in the various relevant forums should aim at ensuring the maximum possible protection of the environment against damage caused by war;

66/ UNEP/GC/84/Add.1.

3. Authorizes the Executive Director to proceed with the appropriate study, to commence by seeking information from Governments, taking into account the statistics prepared by Governments concerning the losses caused by mines, and to give due and careful consideration to such statistics in recommending the formulation of any guidelines;

4. Requests the Executive Director to consult with Governments regarding the feasibility and desirability of convening an intergovernmental meeting to deal with the environmental problems of the material remnants of wars;

5. Further requests the Executive Director to render assistance in the field of environmental protection to States, upon request, in preparing their own programmes for the elimination of mines in their territories;

6. Authorizes the Executive Director, on its behalf, to submit an interim report on the study to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session;

7. Agrees to consider the matter further at its fifth session, with a view to submitting the study to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

54th meeting
9 April 1976

81 (IV). Relationships with non-governmental organizations

The Governing Council,

Having considered the note of the Executive Director on relationships with non-governmental organizations, 67/

1. Expresses appreciation to all non-governmental organizations which have taken part in environmental activities and have contributed to the programme activities of the United Nations Environment Programme and invites such organizations to continue to maintain close co-operation with the Programme;

2. Requests the Executive Director to develop further working relationships with those non-governmental organizations which have an interest in the field of the environment;

3. Invites the non-governmental organizations concerned, where possible, to work within and contribute to the programmatic guidelines developed by the United Nations Environment Programme.

52nd meeting
7 April 1976

67/ UNEP/GC/77.

Other decisions

Resolutions of the seventh special and thirtieth regular sessions of the General Assembly of relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme

At its 52nd meeting, on 7 April 1976, the Governing Council took note of General Assembly resolutions 3434 (XXX), 3435 (XXX), 3437 (XXX) and 3440 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, 3461 (XXX) and 3475 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, and 3506 (XXX), 3507 (XXX) and 3512 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, of the action already taken by the Executive Director with regard to those resolutions, and of his plans for further action.

Criteria governing multilateral financing of housing and human settlements

At its 50th meeting, on 6 April 1976, the Governing Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on criteria governing multilateral financing of housing and human settlements 68/ and of the related note by the Executive Director, 69/ and requested the Executive Director to convey its comments on the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, as the relevant part of the present report. The comments of the Governing Council are reported in chapter VI of the present report.

Provisional agenda, date and place of the fifth session of the Governing Council

At its 56th meeting, on 13 April 1976, the Governing Council decided that its fifth session will be held at Nairobi from 9 to 25 May 1977, with informal consultations on 8 May.

At its 58th meeting, on 14 April 1976, the Council adopted the following provisional agenda for its fifth session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Agenda and organization of the work of the session.
4. Credentials of representatives.
5. Executive Director's report and state of the environment:
 - (a) Introductory report of the Executive Director;

68/ A/10225.

69/ UNEP/GC/78.

- (b) State of the environment report.
- 6. Report of the Environment Co-ordination Board.
- 7. Programme matters:
 - (a) Review of the activities relating to the environment programme;
 - (b) Review of the status of the programme, including supporting measures;
 - (c) Review and approval of Fund programme activities for 1977 and 1978-1979.
- 8. Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements - Review and follow-up activities.
- 9. United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation:
 - (a) Progress report on the implementation of the plan and programme of operations of the Foundation;
 - (b) Revised estimates for programme support costs for the biennium 1976-1977 and proposed budget for programme support costs for the biennium 1978-1979.
- 10. United Nations Conference on Desertification.
- 11. Management of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and financial matters:
 - (a) Report on the implementation of the Fund programme in 1976, revised estimates for programme and programme support costs for the biennium 1976-1977 and proposed budget for programme and programme support costs for the biennium 1978-1979 and review and approval of the over-all level of Fund programme activities for 1977 and 1978-1979;
 - (b) Audited 1975 accounts;
 - (c) Review and approval of the Fund programme for 1977 and 1978-1979 and of the medium-term plan for the period 1978-1981.
- 12. Report on progress made on draft principles of conduct for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious exploitation of natural resources shared by two or more States.
- 13. Environment and development, including irrational and wasteful use of natural resources and ecodevelopment.
- 14. Report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3435 (XXX): study on the problem of the material remnants of war, particularly mines, and their effect on the environment.
- 15. Resolutions of the thirty-first session of the General Assembly of relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme.

16. Provisional agenda, date and place of the sixth session of the Governing Council.
17. Other business.
18. Report of the Governing Council to the General Assembly.
19. Closure of the session.

Date and place of informal consultations with Governments

At its 58th meeting, on 14 April 1976, the Governing Council, recalling paragraph 1 of its decision 23 (III) of 2 May 1975, decided that the informal consultations to be held between its fourth and fifth sessions will take place at Geneva during January 1977, for the purpose of exchanging views on issues of policy and considering any other items on which the Executive Director may wish to report, and requested the Executive Director to provide for the administrative costs of the informal consultations in his budget estimates.

ANNEX II

Draft provisional agenda for the United Nations Conference on
Desertification agreed to by the Governing Council*

1. Opening of the Conference and election of the President.
2. Organization of the work of the Conference:
 - (a) Adoption of the rules of procedure;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work;
 - (c) Establishment of committees and other sessional bodies;
 - (d) Election of officers other than the President;
 - (e) Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
appointment of the Credentials Committee.
3. General debate.
4. Processes and causes of desertification.
5. Plan of action to combat desertification.
6. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
report of the Credentials Committee.
7. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

* See annex I above, decision 73 (IV), para. 1; and E/5836/Add.1.

ANNEX III

Documents before the Governing Council at its fourth session

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
UNEP/GC/56 and Corr.1 (French and Spanish only) and 2	Agenda and organization of the work of the session
UNEP/GC/57 and Corr.1	Introductory report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC/58 and Corr.1 and 2 (Chinese only)	State of the environment, 1976
UNEP/GC/59 and Corr.1	Report to the Governing Council of the Environment Co-ordination Board on its fifth session
UNEP/GC/60	Review of the environmental situation and of activities relating to the environment programme
UNEP/GC/61 and Corr.1 (English only) and 2	Review of the status of the programme
UNEP/GC/61, Annexes I, II and III	Not issued separately in English
UNEP/GC/61/Add.1	Review of the impact of the production and use of energy on the environment
UNEP/GC/61/Add.2 and Corr.1 and 2	International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment
UNEP/GC/61/Add.3	Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States of the Mediterranean Region for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea - Barcelona, 2-16 February 1976
UNEP/GC/62 and Corr.1	Proposed Fund programme activities, 1976-1977
UNEP/GC/63	Progress report on Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements
UNEP/GC/64	Budget report (1975-1977) for the programme support costs of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
UNEP/GC/65	Progress report on the implementation of the plan and programme of operations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation
UNEP/GC/66 and Corr.1	General procedures governing the operations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation
UNEP/GC/66/Add.1	Administrative arrangements regarding the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation
UNEP/GC/67 and Add.1, Add.2 and Corr.1 and Add.3	Implementation of General Assembly resolution 3337 (XXIX): international co-operation to combat desertification
UNEP/GC/68 and Corr.1	Report on the implementation of the Fund programme in 1975
UNEP/GC/68/Add.1	Projects approved between 1 January and 29 February 1976 and status of payment of voluntary contributions as at 15 March 1976
UNEP/GC/68/Add.2	Report on the implementation of the Fund programme in 1975: headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme and the construction of temporary premises
UNEP/GC/69	Review and approval of the over-all level of Fund programme activities for 1976-1977
UNEP/GC/70	Distribution of staff costs between the regular budget of the United Nations and the programme and programme support costs of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GC/71	Audited 1974 accounts
UNEP/GC/72*	Revised estimates for programme and programme support costs, 1976-1977
UNEP/GC/73 and Corr.1 (French only) and 2	Review of the Fund programme for 1976-1977 and of the medium-term plan for the period 1976-1979

* Reissued for technical reasons.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
UNEP/GC/74	Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Natural Resources Shared by Two or More States on the progress made at its first session, held at Nairobi from 12 to 22 January 1976
UNEP/GC/75	Review of the Institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation
UNEP/GC/76	Environment and development
UNEP/GC/77	Relationships with non-governmental organizations
UNEP/GC/78	Criteria governing multilateral financing of housing and human settlements: report of the Secretary-General (A/10225)
UNEP/GC/79	Environmental impact of the irrational and wasteful use of natural resources
UNEP/GC/80	Ecodevelopment
UNEP/GC/81	Training and technical assistance on problems related to the environment
UNEP/GC/82	Catalytic role of the United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GC/83	Evaluation of Fund programme activities
UNEP/GC/84 and Corr.1 and Add.1	Resolutions and decisions of the seventh special and thirtieth regular sessions of the General Assembly of relevance to the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GC/84/Add.1	Resolutions and decisions of the seventh special and thirtieth regular sessions of the General Assembly of relevance to the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme: study of the problems of the material remnants of wars, particularly mines, and their effect on the environment
UNEP/GC/L.34	Observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions regarding the draft general procedures governing the operations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
UNEP/GC/L.35	Financial report and accounts of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme for the year ended 31 December 1975
UNEP/GC/L.36	Introductory statement by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC/L.37 and Add.1-3	Draft report of the Governing Council on the work of its fourth session
UNEP/GC/L.38 and Add.1-3	Report of Sessional Committee I
UNEP/GC/L.39	Report of Sessional Committee II
UNEP/GC/L.40 and Corr.1 (English only)	Credentials of representatives: report of the Bureau