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ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

REPORT OF THE
GOVERNING COUNCIL
on the work
of its seventh session

18 April - 4 May 1979

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-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.

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION	1 - 2	1
<u>Chapter</u>		
I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION	3 - 16	2
II. GENERAL DEBATE	17 - 139	7
III. CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS	140 - 150	33
IV. PROGRAMME MATTERS	151 - 316	36
A. General comments	153 - 155	36
B. Environmental assessment	156 - 194	36
C. Subject areas	195 - 275	42
D. Supporting measures	276 - 299	55
E. Environmental management including environmental law	300 - 313	58
F. General action regarding programme activities . . .	314 - 316	61
V. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND ARID AND SEMI-ARID LAND ECOSYSTEMS .	317 - 333	62
VI. ISSUES RELATING TO HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ACTIVITIES	334 - 346	65
VII. THE ENVIRONMENT FUND	347 - 420	68
A. Implementation of the Fund programme for 1978 and Fund programme activities	348 - 364	68
B. Financial report and accounts for the biennium 1976-1977 ended 31 December 1977 and the report of the Board of Auditors; and financial report and interim accounts (unaudited) for the first year of the biennium 1978-1979 as at 31 December 1978 . .	365 - 369	71
C. Management of the Environment Fund and administrative and budgetary matters	370 - 418	71
D. Adoption of the report	419 - 420	81

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
VIII. OTHER BUSINESS	421	81
IX. PROVISIONAL AGENDA, DATE AND PLACE OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL	422 - 424	82
A. Date and place of the eighth session	422 - 423	82
B. Draft provisional agenda for the eighth session	424	82
X. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION	425 - 434	83
XI. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION	435	85

ANNEXES

I. DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS SEVENTH SESSION		86
II. STATEMENT OF THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONCERNING THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION 718, "REGIONAL SEAS: MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN"		125
III. DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS SEVENTH SESSION		128

INTRODUCTION

1. The report on the seventh session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972.
2. The seventh session of the Governing Council was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 18 April to 4 May 1979. The present report was adopted by the Council at the 12th meeting of the session, on 4 May 1979.

CHAPTER I

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

3. The session was opened by Mr. M. A. Velarde (Spain), President of the Council at its sixth session.

B. Attendance

4. The following States members of the Governing Council 1/ were represented at the session:

Algeria	Kuwait
Argentina	Liberia
Australia	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Austria	Malawi
Bangladesh	Malaysia
Botswana	Mexico
Brazil	Netherlands
Bulgaria	Norway
Burundi	Pakistan
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	Philippines
Canada	Romania
China	Senegal
Colombia	Spain
Denmark	Thailand
France	Tunisia
German Democratic Republic	Turkey
Germany, Federal Republic of	Uganda
Ghana	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
India	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Indonesia	United Republic of Tanzania
Iraq	United States of America
Italy	Uruguay
Jamaica	Venezuela
Japan	Yugoslavia
Kenya	Zaire

1/ The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 101st plenary meeting of the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, on 16 December 1976, at the 103rd plenary meeting of the thirty-second session, on 15 December 1977, and at the 85th and 91st plenary meetings of the thirty-third session, on 15 and 21 December 1978, respectively (decision 33/323).

5. The following States not members of the Governing Council were represented:

Belgium	Holy See
Benin	Hungary
Chile	Israel
Congo	Nigeria
Cuba	Papua New Guinea
Cyprus	Poland
Czechoslovakia	Rwanda
Democratic Yemen	Saudi Arabia
Egypt	Sri Lanka
El Salvador	Sweden
Finland	Switzerland
Gabon	United Republic of Cameroon
Greece	

6. The Palestine Liberation Organization, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and the Zimbabwe African National Union were also represented as observers.

7. The following United Nations bodies and regional commissions were represented:

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO)

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 Bank
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO)

9. The following other intergovernmental organizations were represented:

Commonwealth Secretariat
Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA)
Commission of the European Communities (CEC)
League of Arab States
Organization of African Unity (OAU)

In addition, 42 non-governmental organizations were represented as observers.

C. Election of officers

10. At the opening meeting of the seventh session, on 18 April 1979, Mr. Ernest A. Boateng (Ghana) was elected President by acclamation. At the same meeting, the Governing Council elected Mr. S. H. K. Yusufzai (Bangladesh), Mr. Joaquín Fonseca (Colombia) and Mr. W. Alston Hayne (United States of America) as Vice-Presidents, and Mr. Lothar Hertel (German Democratic Republic) as Rapporteur.

D. Credentials

11. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, the Bureau examined the credentials of the delegations attending the seventh session of the Council. The Bureau found the credentials in order and so reported to the Council, which approved the report of the Bureau at the 11th meeting of the session, on 3 May 1979.

E. Agenda

12. At the opening meeting of the session, the Governing Council adopted the provisional agenda for the session as approved at its sixth session. 2/ The agenda as adopted read:

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 (including resolutions and decisions of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly and of the second session of the Economic and Social Council in 1978 of relevance to the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme);
 - (b) Periodicity and duration of Governing Council sessions;
 - (c) State of the environment report.
6. Co-ordination questions:
 - (a) Reports on interagency co-ordination in the field of the environment;

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/33/25), pp. 157 and 158.

- (b) Medium-term environment programme;
 - (c) Other co-ordination questions.
7. Programme matters.
 8. Plan of Action to Combat Desertification: co-ordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Plan.
 9. Co-ordination with the Commission on Human Settlements and report on the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.
 10. The Environment Fund:
 - (a) Report on the implementation of the Fund programme in 1978;
 - (b) Financial report and accounts for the biennium 1976-1977 ended 31 December 1977 and report of the Board of Auditors, and financial report and interim accounts (unaudited) for the first year of the biennium 1978-1979 as at 31 December 1978;
 - (c) Management of the Fund of UNEP and administrative and budgetary matters.
 11. Provisional agenda, date and place of the eighth session of the Governing Council.
 12. Other business.
 13. Report of the Governing Council to the General Assembly.
 14. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of the work of the session

13. At the opening meeting of the session, the Governing Council considered the question of 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 (UNEP/GC.7/2 and Corr.1). It was agreed that item 5 (a), (b) and (c) should be considered 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 6 (c), 8 and 12;

Sessional Committee II: agenda items 10 (a), (b) and (c)

Mr. Joaquín Fonseca (Colombia) and Mr. S. H. K. Yusufzai (Bangladesh), Vice-Presidents, were appointed Chairmen of Sessional Committees I and II, respectively.

G. Work of the Committees

15. Committee I held 18 meetings from 19 April to 2 May 1979. At the 1st meeting, it elected Mr. F. L. Schlingemann (Netherlands) as Rapporteur, and adopted its work plan and tentative time-table. The text of the Committee's report has been incorporated in chapters IV and V below.

16. Committee II held 12 meetings from 19 April to 2 May 1979. At the 1st meeting, it elected Mr. W. N. Mbote (Kenya) as Rapporteur and approved a tentative time-table for its work. The text of the Committee's report has been incorporated in chapter VII below.

CHAPTER II

GENERAL DEBATE

17. In discussing agenda item 5 at the 2nd to 7th meetings of the session, the Council had before it the following documents: the introductory report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.7/3), with an annex on resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council of relevance to UNEP; the introductory statement of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.7/3/Add.1 and Corr.1) and the report on the state of the environment: selected topics - 1978 (UNEP/GC.7/4 and Corr.1).

18. In an introductory statement (UNEP/GC.7/3/Add.1 and Corr.1) at the opening meeting of the session, the Executive Director focused on matters of common concern to the international community as a whole, major developments since the preparation of the Council's documentation, and issues before the Council that needed to be highlighted.

19. A matter of common concern to developed and developing countries alike was the problem of harmonizing goals and policies for economic development and for environment protection and improvement. Answers had to be found to the questions of how environmental parameters could be integrated into the decision-making process; how decision-makers could be convinced that, although environmental measures were costly, the benefits were enormous; and in what time frame environmental measures and economic policy objectives could be reconciled. The answers to those questions would affect the development process, and the environment, for many years to come, and development strategies must take account of environmental consequences from the beginning. However, the measures required for environmental protection and improvement were not everywhere the same. A wide range of activities must therefore be conceived and orchestrated to achieve the harmonization that was sought.

20. The new international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade would emphasize the social aspects of development and the need for institutional reforms, and would take account of the different perspectives and priorities of the industrialized and developing countries. Although the developing countries were not unconcerned about industrial pollution and damage to the human environment resulting from high levels of economic activity, their prime concern at present was poverty and its implications. Section I, paragraphs 3 and 4, of General Assembly resolution 33/193 of 29 January 1979 identified objectives for the new international development strategy and measures, including environmental protection measures, which could be seen as the framework for the achievement of those objectives.

21. The Governing Council might wish to contribute to the formulation of the strategy by stressing that the attainment of the targets demanded an integrated approach which took into account the interrelationships between development, the environment, population and resources; that, for most developing countries, remedial approaches to environmental problems were closely interwoven with policies for over-all development; that it was of paramount importance to take

account of the need to preserve non-renewable, and enhance the use of renewable, resources, that although the strategy was to cover a decade, it must be framed within a longer-term perspective; and that a much more efficient process of review and appraisal must be an integral part of the strategy.

22. The Governing Council might also wish to draw attention to the fact that, while environmental and social goals could be incorporated in the realization of some development objectives without undue difficulty, matters became more complicated when conflicts were perceived, particularly in the short or medium term, between such goals and narrower growth objectives.

23. One main objective of the optimal development process would be to satisfy the basic requirements of present and future generations without transgressing the outer limits to biospheric tolerance of man's activities. To ensure such rational management, methods must be developed to deal more adequately with the social, environmental and economic costs and benefits of development-related activities. UNEP was currently engaged in developing such methods through a cost-benefit analysis exercise, the establishment of operational guidelines and environmental checklists for development projects, the establishment of criteria for resource use and the charting of possible alternative patterns of development and life-styles for use by Governments in ways commensurate with their goals.

24. A more specific issue related to the path chosen for the achievement of the individual development objectives identified in General Assembly resolution 33/193. If the difficult problems of tradeoffs and options that arose were not faced at the conceptual stage or soon thereafter, they could become insurmountable or of prohibitive cost to most developing countries.

25. The new strategy should also deal with the use of the global commons, whose future maintenance and the control of the utilization of their resources would require regulatory actions. Such actions were the warp and woof of a new international economic order, involving as they did the two major issues of international control and international taxation.

26. Another important question was whether the new strategy should not, while fully recognizing the widely different levels of development in the world and among developing countries themselves, include certain specific environmental targets, such as the achievement of minimum standards of housing and minimum protection standards in the working environment in each industrial sector.

27. Another issue concerned the possibility of including in the new strategy certain regional or global projects to be completed, or at least begun, in the 1980s in such areas as environmentally sound hydroelectric irrigation, afforestation and the management of tropical forests, and the use of renewable energy sources. Such projects, which might make the strategy more specific, would represent a transnational endeavour of regional and world-wide benefit and, in the short run, might have a significant impact on world economic activity.

28. Emerging environmental issues were also likely to affect such matters as trade, aid and the transfer of technology. The developing countries might not be able to take advantage of opportunities arising from environmental controls and might also face new non-tariff barriers or an unfair share of the extra burden that such controls might entail. Yet the new environmental concern in developed countries might afford opportunities for developing countries, in that

it could lead to the adaptation and appropriate relocation of industries. Such emerging issues could enhance international co-operation if action on them was conceived in a spirit of interdependence and international solidarity.

29. The above-mentioned issues needed to be placed in their proper long-term perspective, since a number of major social and environmental goals fundamental to the new international development strategy could not be achieved in a time frame as short as a decade. The environmental consideration that had to be taken into account in achieving operational goals and objectives over shorter periods of time must, however, also be borne in mind.

30. Preparations within the United Nations family for the formulation of the new strategy were moving ahead purposefully. It was a matter of urgency that the views of the Governing Council should be conveyed, authoritatively and persuasively, to those concerned. An expression of views by the Governing Council would undoubtedly assist the various bodies concerned in arriving at a consensus on the different issues before them.

31. Among the major developments since the preparation of the Council's documentation or since the Council's last session, the Conference on Climate and Mankind, organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and held at Geneva from 19 to 23 February 1979, had represented a milestone in international efforts to understand natural and man-made climatic changes and their effects. The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and its possible impact on climate had been recognized by the Conference as deserving the most urgent attention of the world community of nations. Document UNEP/GC.7/7 included proposals for action in that area, which the Council might wish to consider in conjunction with the problem of tropical deforestation, the solution to which required urgent international co-operation.

32. In December 1978, the Co-ordinating Committee on the Ozone Layer had issued "An assessment of ozone depletion and its impacts", which stated that the most serious threat to the ozone layer came from chlorofluoromethanes. International co-operation in learning more about the impact of such depletion was therefore essential.

33. Recent developments with regard to nuclear energy had once again shown that public concern was an important factor to be taken into account when considering the growing need for energy. UNEP was in the process of finalizing its reports on the environmental impact of nuclear and fossil-fuel sources of energy and would soon begin the preparation of a third report on renewable energy sources. Those reports should contribute to a better understanding of the environmental consequences of all forms of energy and help in the preparation of a comparative study of such consequences, to be undertaken in 1980.

34. In the past year, substantial progress had been made in implementing certain elements of the environment programme. For example, two activities within the Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS) had recently come to fruition, both in co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The pilot tropical forest cover monitoring project had produced a report on monitoring methodologies used to assess forest cover in Benin, Togo and the United Republic of Cameroon, while, as part of the project on the world assessment of soil degradation, two maps, one of Africa north of the Equator and one of the Near and Middle East, had been produced. Governments had responded

positively regarding the registration of sources and the processing of queries for the International Referral System (INFOTERRA), and even more so in the identification of national correspondents for the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC).

35. The financial problems reported to the Governing Council at its sixth session in connexion with the Action Plan for the Mediterranean had now been solved, and the Action Plan had entered a new phase. In February 1978 the Governments concerned and the European Economic Community (EEC) had approved a programme of work for 1979-1980 and a budget of \$6.4 million. Half of that sum would be paid by Governments through a Mediterranean Trust Fund, which was being presented to the Governing Council for approval. The balance would be met half by UNEP and half, in different forms of services, by other United Nations agencies. Those achievements were consistent with the Council's wish that Governments should assume more and more financial responsibility and substantive control.

36. The contracting parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora had agreed on a cost-sharing arrangement for the secretariat services of the Convention, thus demonstrating their willingness increasingly to assume the cost of the administrative functions of the Convention.

37. Co-operation between UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) was progressing most satisfactorily, and the bureaux of the governing bodies of the two organizations had held a very productive meeting at Nairobi in March 1979.

38. As a step towards the achievement of goal 9 for 1982, ^{3/} the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), in co-operation with UNEP and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), was finalizing the world conservation strategy, which aimed at explaining the objectives of conservation and showing how their achievement would contribute to development, describing the main requirements for their achievement, and setting up a means for meeting those requirements. The strategy would be communicated to all Governments as soon as possible, and UNEP would help to ensure that the opportunities afforded by the strategy were taken advantage of without delay.

39. Those were all satisfying achievements, but there was still room for improvement, particularly in the following areas: (a) sharpening the focus of treatment of emerging problems in the annual state of the environment report; (b) consolidating and integrating the activities of UNEP in the field of environmental assessment, which had to be complemented by government support of focal points for INFOTERRA and IRPTC; (c) implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and, in particular, its financial aspects; (d) halting the disastrous depletion of tropical forests and woodlands; (e) making further progress in the field of public information; and (f) improving the quality of documentation.

40. Among the issues on which policy guidance was required from the Council were: periodicity and duration of Governing Council sessions; the 1982 session of the

^{3/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/32/25), para. 31.

Governing Council; the system-wide medium-term environment programme, further action in the field of environmental law; and the status of the Environment Fund, its management and the application of its catalytic role.

41. With regard to the development of the system-wide medium-term environment programme, the Executive Director hoped that the proposals made in his introductory report would point the way to an integrated means of dealing with planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation in the field of the environment. With the preparation of the system-wide programme, UNEP would be in a position to influence the development of suitable approaches by all concerned.

42. The question of draft principles of conduct for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious exploitation of natural resources shared by two or more States had been before the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Governing Council for some six years. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council had both urged the UNEP working group on the subject to expedite its work and finalize its report. However, when the report containing the principles had been submitted to the General Assembly, the anxiety of Governments to see the work completed had apparently waned, and the Assembly had "invited the Secretary-General to transmit a report to Governments for their study and comments regarding the principles and to report thereon, taking into account also other significant information with a view to enabling the General Assembly to take a decision at its thirty-fourth session". The Governing Council's guidance was needed on that matter, particularly since it had previously stressed that environmental law was an area in which UNEP was not moving quickly enough. Should UNEP spend much time and scarce resources to prepare principles only to find that there was a lack of political will on the part of Governments to reach a decision on what should be done with the principles they had requested?

43. Regarding the Environment Fund, additional resources would be necessary to enable UNEP to maintain a level of programme activities compatible with its mandate, with the present medium-term plan and with the ambitious endeavour of establishing the system-wide medium-term environment programme. The approved target of contributions for the medium-term plan 1978-1981 was \$150 million. UNEP now had estimated resources of slightly over \$122 million. Without allowing for the uncertainty about the level of contributions of its major donor, it was still about \$28 million short of reaching the approved target. When inflation and currency composition were taken into account, it was apparent that, if the present trend prevailed and no substantial additional contributions were forthcoming, UNEP would have to reduce its programme considerably in 1979. If contributions in convertible currencies stabilized at the present rate, the Programme's ability to support activities in those currencies would fall drastically, from a level of more than \$38 million in 1979 to around \$24 million in 1980 and 1981, at a time when environmental problems were becoming more acute and several Governments were looking to UNEP to help them face those problems. It would be unfortunate if, because of a trifling shortage of funds, UNEP was forced to cut down on its catalytic and co-ordinating role or to decline to offer much-needed assistance.

44. Several Governments, aware of that problem, had already responded positively: 13 Governments, all of them of developing countries, had pledged contributions for the first time, and 21 Governments had raised their contributions, some of them generously. He appealed to all other Governments to give serious consideration to that crucial issue and requested the Governing Council to give him policy guidance on how to ensure the level of funding required to implement the activities that it had agreed UNEP should support in the next few years.

45. He had appreciated the opportunity of paying official visits to 17 countries in different regions of the world since the last session of the Governing Council, of seeing at first hand the progress being made in the environmental field and of discussing matters of mutual concern with Heads of State and Government and concerned ministers and high officials. In the discussions he had had during those visits he had placed particular emphasis on the need for environmental impact assessment; for case studies in the field of cost-benefit analysis of environmental measures; and for a better exchange of information on the experiences of individual countries. Of paramount importance, however, had been the question of the Fund of UNEP and the urgent need for countries to meet and increase their pledges.

46. In conclusion, the Executive Director reiterated his continued understanding and belief that possible risks to the environment and the negative impact of the mishandling of natural resources were real and present dangers to all peoples everywhere. Those risks and dangers did not stop at the border of any given political or economic system, or at any given level of development. They were, rather, issues which could act as a binding force on nations as together they sought ways and means of sustaining the world's life-supporting systems. Environmental considerations should be at the heart of everything said and done with regard to the development process. Environmental protection and improvement were therefore not marginal or sectoral issues in development. They were core issues. It was paradoxical that although the community of nations believed that environmental considerations should be taken fully into account in the development process, UNEP should be handicapped by a shortage of resources. UNEP could not do much to help protect and improve the environment without the full moral, political, technical and financial support of Governments.

47. During the general debate, which took place at the 3rd to 7th meetings of the session, from 23 to 26 April 1979, delegations agreed that environmentally sound development and sustainable economic growth in harmony with the environment were indispensable if the problems facing both developed and developing countries were to be solved. Many speakers noted with satisfaction that the General Assembly had, in resolution 33/193, emphasized that the new international development strategy should reflect in an appropriate manner the need for the protection of the environment and taking environmental considerations into account in accordance with the development plans and priorities of developing countries. Several speakers stressed in that connexion that the ultimate aim of the strategy, and of the contributions made by UNEP to its preparations, should be to promote the implementation of a new international economic order. A number of representatives also welcomed the recognition by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) that environmental considerations were an integral part of the sectoral responsibilities of its members, who should therefore incorporate those considerations in their contributions to the preparations for the 1980 special session of the General Assembly to adopt the new strategy. They were also gratified that ACC had noted the Governing Council's concern that sustainability should be a criterion of any new development strategy.

48. It was also generally recognized that harmonization of environment and development policies was a prerequisite for the improvement of the quality of life of present and future generations. In pursuing that objective, the equitable distribution and wise management of world resources, respect for the outer limits of the biosphere and the development of just economic relations between States within the framework of a new international economic order would

have an important role to play. Some delegations also said that effective environmental co-operation could only be achieved through universal, just and lasting peace in the world, through peaceful coexistence among States with different social, economic and political systems and at different levels of development, and through the strengthening and widening of international détente. It was also predicated upon the prevention of a new world war through effective disarmament measures; that would also permit resources currently wasted on armaments to be switched to peaceful purposes. In that connexion it was stressed that the recent tenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to disarmament, and the effective implementation of its Final Document (resolution S-10/2) were of decisive significance, and that UNEP should take full account of those decisions. Some delegations expressed satisfaction at the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques and urged all States to become parties to it.

49. Three delegations condemned the aggression committed by China against Viet Nam and those military circles which supported the aggressor. Apart from causing human suffering and loss of life and the destruction of material values, that aggression had also undermined economic co-operation among nations. They would continue rendering all necessary support and assistance to the righteous cause of the long-suffering Vietnamese people.

50. One delegation said that the new international development strategy should aim at a thorough change in the old international economic relations based on imperialist and hegemonist control and exploitation, so as to create the necessary international conditions in which developing countries would be able to develop their economies independently. In that process, attention should be paid to the protection of the environment.

51. Several delegations said they attached great importance to the preparations under way for the holding, later in 1979, of a high-level meeting on environment within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), and welcomed the support for it by UNEP. That meeting, which was a follow-up to the Helsinki Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, would strengthen regional and environmental co-operation between Western and Eastern Europe. Some delegations also pointed out that the results of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and of the World Agrarian Reform Congress, to be held later in 1979, should be taken into account by UNEP. One delegation expressed regret that UNEP, as far as it knew, had prepared only a modest input to the Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

52. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 27 April 1979, the Executive Director announced that ECE had given its formal approval to the convening of the high-level meeting on the environment, which would be held from 13 to 15 November 1979. The meeting would have two major topics on its agenda: long-range transboundary air pollution and low-waste and non-waste technology, both of which were of great interest to UNEP. The Executive Secretary of ECE had requested him to stress that that successful development had been greatly facilitated by the close collaboration between UNEP and ECE. In the Executive Director's view, that was a perfect example of how the modest but important assistance being provided by UNEP to the ECE secretariat could help catalyse an achievement of profound importance both environmentally and politically: such developments at the regional level made major contributions to the over-all global environment efforts.

53. Several delegations described measures recently adopted in their countries in the legislative, administrative, institutional and scientific fields for the protection and improvement of the environment. Several stressed that national progress in the environmental field was a reflection of an increasing understanding by Governments of the importance of environmental issues. The activities of UNEP were significantly contributing to that spreading awareness. One delegation stressed that the measures required for environmental protection and improvement were not everywhere the same; it was essential for the success of national environmental programmes in any country that specific solutions be sought on the basis of a careful consideration of the objective conditions and requirements of that country.

54. Some delegations felt that the economic and financial difficulties which many nations were experiencing were having a backlash effect on environmental programmes and expenditures, and that renewed efforts by environmentalists were needed to maintain the momentum gained since Stockholm. It was also stated that while developing countries had had some success in tackling environmental problems in certain spheres, they were experiencing serious difficulties in others. That was because their primary task, of ensuring the development of their economy to meet the basic needs of their people, did not permit them to allocate large resources for environmental protection.

55. It was generally acknowledged that development policies and the protection of the environment were not only compatible but intimately linked with one another. One of the primary tasks of UNEP was therefore to increase the awareness and understanding of environmental issues and concerns to the point where they became integral to the development planning process of all countries. Many delegations also stressed the importance of a rational approach to natural resources management and conservation as the basis for ecologically sound development. One delegation said that, since economic development was generally based on a resource use approach, the objective of integrating environmental planning and development was to absorb resource management concepts into the process of resource use planning. Another, recalling the recommendations made by the Cocoyoc Symposium ^{4/} on the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to environment and development, expressed the belief that progress in implementing them had been too slow, and called for renewed efforts in that direction.

56. All speakers agreed that the preparation of the new international development strategy provided a unique opportunity for UNEP to pursue that challenge. It was pointed out that environmental concerns should be reflected not only in a special section of the strategy on environment, but also in the various sections dealing with particular economic and social sectors. It was also felt that the new emphasis on qualitative targets for the third development strategy would facilitate the inclusion of social and environmental aspects in the strategy, thus making it more down to earth than the second one had been.

57. One delegation urged Governments to encourage and support, in the intergovernmental bodies of United Nations agencies, the contributions that those agencies could make to the environmental aspects of the strategy. Two delegations expressed regret that, in their replies to the Executive Director's

^{4/} For the Cocoyoc Declaration adopted by the Symposium, see A/C.2/292.

queries regarding their environmental activities of relevance to the preparation of the new strategy, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRRO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) had indicated only marginal interest in the question. Those organizations had a definite contribution to make, since their fields of competence had direct relevance to environmental concerns.

58. Many delegations welcomed the initiatives taken or planned by UNEP to develop tools for integrating environmental considerations in the development process, such as the preparation of operational guidelines and environmental checklists for development projects, and the formulation of criteria for resource exploitation and use and the charting of alternative patterns of development and lifestyles, which could be used by Governments in ways commensurate with their own development goals. They also strongly endorsed the exercise on costs and benefits of environmental protection measures, which would significantly contribute to a better understanding of the relationship between environment and development and provide decision-makers with practical tools to assess the economic and social benefits which could accrue from environmental investments.

59. There was support for the suggestion that the Governing Council, as an input to the preparation of the strategy, should emphasize the need to make environmental impact assessments a prerequisite in development activities, particularly those receiving bilateral and multilateral aid. The right of receiving Governments to take decisions concerning such assessments in accordance with their own goals and priorities was recognized. One delegation felt that the imposition of any rigid system of environmental impact statements as a condition for extending development assistance could introduce a problem of discrimination between developing countries requiring such assistance and the developed countries who would be called upon to produce it, and whose development activities had no less, if not a greater, impact on the environment; with a flexible approach, the desired objectives could still be achieved.

60. One delegation said that its Congress had, in 1978, called for the use of environmental assessment procedures as a mechanism to identify and deal with transnational environmental issues. While it was not expected that many actions would call for such assessments, those affecting the global commons in particular might well be submitted to such scrutiny. The suggestion did not envisage the imposition of national environmental standards on foreign jurisdictions: rather, it was designed to establish a consultative mechanism to exchange information and seek mutually acceptable solutions. Its Government would consult with others about the potential role of such an international arrangement. If those consultations went well, it would make a specific proposal in the Second Committee during the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly seeking agreement to include in the Assembly resolution on the Governing Council's report a request that the Executive Director convene a group of experts to prepare principles on the use of environmental assessments for activities with transnational environmental effects and report thereon to the Council at its eighth session. The next step would then be to develop appropriate international measures. Other delegations expressed interest in the proposal.

61. One delegation, while recognizing that, since countries were at different levels of social and economic development, environmental assessment should remain a national prerogative, stated that the scope of the decision-making process itself should be broadened: an effort must be made to evaluate not only

the economic advantages or disadvantages of given activities, but also their social and environmental consequences, both short-term and long-term. That effort would be facilitated by the attachment of environmental advisers to national development planning agencies, the establishment of environmental guidelines for the various development sectors and the provision of practical training opportunities by those countries having relevant experience to those that did not. The UNDP/UNEP project in Kenya aimed at building environmental considerations into development planning was an excellent example of integrated decision-making.

62. It was also generally recognized that the efforts made by UNEP to analyse the interrelationships between population, resources, environment and development would yield valuable information for planners and decision-makers and contribute significantly to the preparation of the new strategy. One delegation stressed that the problem of population growth was a particularly serious one because of its social, economic and environmental impact. Another took the view that the strategy should include recommendations regarding research on such interrelationships where environmental threats were imminent.

63. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 27 April 1979, the Executive Director read out the concluding remarks of the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy, made at the end of its April session, which indicated inter alia that inputs by the Secretariat to the deliberations of the Committee should take into account the point of view expressed by a large majority of the delegations that the rate of growth of the developing countries should be higher than that achieved or set during the current decade. The Secretariat should explore the implications of 4 per cent annual growth in agriculture, should study the implications of achieving the manufacturing output targets set by the Second General Conference of UNIDO, and should try to explore with agencies whether it was at all possible to come out with specific indications in other fields.

64. A number of delegations felt that the co-ordinating and catalytic role of UNEP had been strengthened in the past year, and was meeting with broad recognition on the part not only of the United Nations system but also of Governments. The growing importance of the role of UNEP in promoting and uniting the efforts of all countries and organizations to solve major environmental problems was also acknowledged. It was pointed out that, in order to further enhance the effectiveness of UNEP, Governments should both take individual initiatives to promote environmental protection and support the Programme's efforts in the governing bodies of United Nations organizations and in other forums.

65. A few delegations reiterated their concern that the Programme remained very wide in scope and lacked a mechanism for self-evaluation which would permit an accurate assessment of progress since its inception.

66. Some delegations stated that the co-ordinating and catalytic function of UNEP gave it primary responsibility for global initiatives, while others stressed that it must take into account in its programmes the requirements of countries and regions with different geographical, social, economic and cultural conditions, and at different stages of development. Some said that the global programmes of UNEP did not, by and large, present the same degree of interest for developing as for developed countries: what the former needed most from UNEP was concrete projects geared to national or regional programmes, particularly in areas such as

human settlements, environmental health, the marine environment, desertification and water. One delegation pointed out in that connexion that UNEP should not overly constrain its activities by being too concerned with its catalytic and non-operational role.

67. One delegation said that the UNEP programme should reflect a satisfactory balance between geographical and ecological regions. Another felt that, in establishing priorities, different approaches should be taken to global and regional concerns: regional programmes should be reviewed within regional groups, in consultation with the UNEP secretariat, before they were discussed at the Governing Council. A number of delegations suggested that regional consultations open to all States of the region might be held in preparation for Governing Council sessions.

68. Several delegations stressed the importance they attached to UNEP's regional activities and structures, and requested that they be strengthened. A few suggested that further programme decentralization was needed if appropriate solutions to specific regional or subregional environmental problems were to be found, and some expressed satisfaction at certain initiatives taken or supported by UNEP in that direction. Several delegations commended in that connexion UNEP's support for the ASEAN subregion programme and the South Pacific Region Environment Programme. Mention was also made of positive developments which had taken place in the area of environmental co-operation within several regions, in particular under the auspices of ECE, and it was suggested in that connexion that the Governing Council urge all regional commissions which had not already done so to set up environmental machineries.

69. Most delegations expressed regret at the financial constraints on the activities of UNEP, and urged all Governments to increase their efforts to provide the Programme with the resources required for the effective implementation of its mandate. Some delegations stated, however, that the problem was not unique to UNEP and that many Governments were experiencing similar financial constraints. One delegation stated that it was important to publicize the role and functions of UNEP better, providing more specific information on its accomplishments so as to secure appropriate support from national financial authorities. Several delegations stated that their Governments had increased, or would increase, their contributions to the Environment Fund.

70. Some delegations stated that, in medium-term planning, careful account should be taken of available and foreseeable resources. After years of constant growth, available income and, as a result, possible expenditures seemed likely to level off, and thought must therefore be given to the number and scale of new activities which the Council could reasonably authorize annually and to the criteria which should be used in deciding upon such activities. Several delegations favoured gradually phasing out those activities that tended to involve UNEP in long-term financial commitments, although some believed that room should be left for some flexibility. One delegation said that as a general rule, which should also apply to internal projects, UNEP should support an activity for no more than three to five years, following which the other parties involved would shoulder the full cost: a ground rule might also be established whereby UNEP would not fund any major co-operative project in a proportion of more than 50 per cent for an extended period of time without first seeking the Governing Council's approval. It also favoured the setting of a time-limit on all Governing Council decisions, so that they would automatically lapse after a few years unless specifically

renewed. Another delegation felt that the assessment functions of UNEP and those activities assigned specifically to UNEP by the General Assembly, such as the co-ordination of anti-desertification programmes, should receive continuous support by UNEP but that regional activities, in-country demonstration programmes and treaties or agreements of interest to a limited number of countries were areas where phase-out of UNEP support might be envisaged.

71. Concern was expressed that the co-operating agencies seemed to have become more dependent on the Environment Fund, rather than less. One delegation said there should be a critical review of the cost-sharing ratio, with a view to cutting down the share of UNEP to the minimum workable level. Another suggested that detailed information should be provided on the contributions by UNEP to international agencies for major projects. The hope was expressed that the move to harmonize biennial budgeting in the United Nations system would make it easier for the agencies to provide relevant programme budget information, so that future programme documents would clearly reflect the environmental activities of the entire system. One delegation, while recognizing that the final choice of the organizations to implement projects should be based on the expertise they could provide, believed that the secretariat's first step should be to explore the capabilities within the United Nations system.

72. One delegation, while commending the efforts of the Executive Director to use non-convertible currencies, pointed out that, in so doing, he should take due account of the need to respect the co-ordinating and catalyzing functions of UNEP; such projects should be justifiable in terms of efficiency, geographical distribution and national participation.

73. Most delegations expressed support for the Executive Director's proposal that the Governing Council should continue to hold annual sessions until at least 1983, that the sessions should have a maximum duration of 10 working days and that the possibility of holding biennial sessions should be reviewed in 1982. A number of delegations felt that the duration of the general debate should not be reduced, since it provided an important political forum for the exchange of views among Governments on major policy issues, and several favoured a return to holding the general debate at the beginning of the session. Several other delegations expressed the view that the general debate should not start at the beginning of the session. A number of representatives shared the view that the Council could concentrate in alternate years on programme and fund matters respectively, without, however, completely excluding one or the other from its consideration. Other delegations felt that would not be practical, since programme and Fund problems were intricately linked together.

74. There was broad support for holding the intersessional informal consultations in the first half of December each year. One delegation felt that informal consultations should be better prepared; it would be useful to distribute to Governments at least one month in advance not only the annotated agenda for such consultations but also the documents on which the Executive Director wished to consult Governments.

75. There was general agreement in principle on the Executive Director's proposal to hold in 1982, to mark the tenth anniversary of the Stockholm Conference, a special session of the Governing Council, in which the entire membership of the United Nations should participate. Several delegations welcomed his intention to report to the Council at its eighth session on the

financial, legal and administrative implications of that proposal. One delegation expressed reservations about the proposal, since the General Assembly itself, with the whole membership of the United Nations, could, in 1982, pay special attention to the report of the Governing Council and thus review the accomplishment of UNEP over the preceding 10 years.

76. It was generally felt that the format and style of the documentation had markedly improved. Its reduction in volume, greater clarity and timely dispatch were particularly appreciated. The presentation and content of the programme document, in particular, had improved considerably, and it had become the major programming tool required by the Council for the proper exercise of its policy guidance function. A few delegations, however, stated that the secretariat should make additional efforts to provide Governments with documents in the required languages sufficiently in advance of sessions. One delegation suggested that the documentation could be further improved if it contained "operative" paragraphs summarizing issues requiring decisions by the Governing Council.

77. A number of representatives endorsed the Executive Director's proposal to prepare a programme perspective document, which they felt would be particularly useful if it presented the results of assessments through the various components of Earthwatch, thus providing a factual basis for management actions by Governments to protect and improve the environment. One delegation pointed out that such a document should be seen as a supplement to, rather than a substitute for, the programme document.

78. Support was also expressed for the Executive Director's intention to sharpen the focus of the state of the environment reports in order to make them more authoritative and more persuasive to users. Most delegations commended the treatment given to the topics covered in the 1979 report, and commented on their relevance and importance in their own national contexts. One delegation said that, in tackling the problem of bilharzia, full advantage should be taken of the services provided by the International Reference Centre for Community Water Supply. It was suggested that UNEP should consider developing, in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned, malaria and schistosomiasis control projects as well as integrated pest control methods which would reduce the use of chemical pesticides. The importance of the genetic heritage was stressed. The related activities fell, in the view of one delegation, under two main categories: the conservation of genetic resources and their use in biological pest control. With regard to the latter, the delegation was surprised that the report did not mention the techniques for combating schistosomiasis through biological methods developed in Guadeloupe. Several delegations stressed the fundamental importance of the issues of toxic chemicals in the environment and of the disposal of hazardous wastes, and one of them reiterated the need for international action regarding the use of developing countries as experimental or dumping grounds for chemical products banned, or not adequately tested and approved, in the countries of origin. In its view, the world community should work out a new dynamic international code of ethics governing all international trade, technical aid, bilateral and multilateral co-operation, as well as financial and manpower training arrangements, between developed and developing countries in that field. One delegation suggested that the Executive Director should collect and disseminate information on national experience in plant protection and the protection of the environment from the damaging effects of tourism. Another urged that UNEP co-operate with the World Tourism Organization in relation to the effects of tourism on the environment.

79. Regarding the topics recommended by the Executive Director for inclusion in the 1980 state of the environment report, there was broad agreement that the topic "environmental health: heavy metals poisoning" should be included. One delegation suggested that that topic should be entitled "environmental health: health hazards of heavy metals". Several delegations supported the inclusion of the topic "environmental effects of military activities", while other delegations objected to the inclusion of that topic. Regarding the topic "genetic engineering", some delegations stressed its importance and interest, while another had some doubts about the appropriateness of including it in the report, since in its view it fell more properly within the purview of FAO. A number of representatives expressed preference for one or several of the topics among which the Governing Council was to choose one or two additional subjects for inclusion in the report. One delegation reiterated its interest in including among those subjects an evaluation of GEMS.

80. Most delegations expressed high expectations for the 1982 state of the environment report - "ten years after Stockholm" - which many felt would have a considerable impact on international co-operation in the environmental field and provide a useful basis for charting the further development of the activities of UNEP. Several speakers also commended the decision of the Executive Director to involve national and international organizations in the preparation of the report. One delegation suggested that comprehensive state of the environment reports should be issued every 10, rather than five years, and that the timing of the reports should be related to the period covered by international development strategies. Another delegation called on the Executive Director to keep the Council informed on the preparation of the reports, including the costs.

81. Several delegations stated that additional efforts were needed in the area of public information to make UNEP more visible, and create better understanding of and support for its activities, through an adequate flow of environmental information to the world mass media and a wider dissemination of technical information and studies on its activities.

82. Many delegations commended the Executive Director for his sustained efforts to strengthen relations between UNEP and Member States by visiting them and forging closer links with a number of them. One representative said that the visit of the Executive Director to his country had led to the signing of several agreements with UNEP. As a result of the visit, several projects, which he briefly described, had been or would be launched by his Government. Two delegations invited the Executive Director to visit their countries.

83. Several delegations, urging that Earthwatch be fully operational by 1982, said that the formulation of adequate environmental policies by Governments and the coherent development of UNEP programmes and of environmental management were intimately linked to proper environmental assessment procedures and the resulting data. One delegation considered that UNEP could not fully play its proper role in the United Nations system until its assessment functions were adequately developed and made operational. Others stressed that more attention should be given to integrated assessment and interpretation of the results of the various monitoring activities.

84. A number of delegations considered that GEMS provided a good basis for co-ordinating the efforts both of the United Nations system and of other organizations to monitor such hazards as transboundary air pollution. It was

noted in that connexion that the co-operative programme for the monitoring and evaluation of long-range transmission of air pollution in Europe, which had, from its inception, been an integral part of GEMS, would be further developed within ECE. Appreciation was also expressed for the work of UNEP in monitoring and assessing tropical forest cover and soil degradation.

85. Several delegations stressed the importance of IRPTC as a major instrument for combating environmental hazards created by toxic substances. One delegation considered that a co-ordinated world plan was needed to bring the vast number of chemicals in world commercial production under control: for IRPTC to gather information on laws, administrative rulings and concrete actions taken by Governments to avoid the export of industrial processes and products having harmful effects on health and environment would be a useful step in that direction. Another representative said that UNEP should consider elaborating a convention governing the use of and trade in potentially toxic chemicals.

86. INFOTERRA was considered as an important tool for disseminating knowledge on environmental problems for the benefit and use of all countries. One delegation expressed its Government's interest in hosting a regional co-ordination centre for INFOTERRA.

87. The view was expressed that UNEP had a significant role to play in following up on the recently held Conference on Climate and Mankind, particularly in the field of climate impact studies under the World Climate Programme. One delegation felt that it might be premature for UNEP to deal with the whole subject of climatic change in the next state of the environment report, since basic scientific assessments of climate studies were still needed from WMO and the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU).

88. One delegation said that its Government had convened, at Munich in December 1978, an international conference on damage by fluorohydrocarbons to the ozone layer which had agreed to ask industry to produce 30 per cent less fluorohydrocarbons by 1981, and the EEC member countries had agreed to implement that recommendation.

89. A number of delegations expressed particular concern with the problem of desertification, deforestation, soil erosion, water resources depletion and the destruction of wildlife.

90. General support was expressed for the efforts undertaken by UNEP to implement the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, since the encroachment of deserts and its implications for world food supplies were major concerns of the world community. One delegation said the guidelines developed by UNEP for national anti-desertification programmes were valuable tools. Another said that its country was interested in participating actively in the work of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control. One delegation expressed its Government's preference for continuing to work through its well-established bilateral technical assistance programmes, on which it was spending considerable sums, while another said that its Government preferred to work through existing institutional machinery, a procedure which had proved effective in practice. Several delegations expressed the hope that the international community would ensure that the special account to finance the Plan of Action, which had recently been opened, would soon become operational.

91. A number of delegations requested assistance from UNEP to support national efforts in the field of desertification, as well as other related activities, such as irrigation, tree planting and waterlogged land reclamation. One delegation, referring to the transnational project dealing with the North African green belt, asked the Executive Director to convince other Governments concerned to sign the 1977 Cairo agreement on the project. Another said that its Government had submitted a project for integrated management of semi-arid rangelands and dry forests which required the co-operation of UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and WMO. Yet another said its Government was ready to continue extending all possible co-operation to the South-West Asia desertification monitoring project.

92. Several delegations indicated the need to develop adequate soil management and land-use policies and strongly supported the Executive Director's concern for the conservation of tropical woodlands and forests. Several delegations felt strongly that an international meeting of experts should be convened to bring that key problem more closely to the attention of decision-makers, make proposals for action, and stimulate further technical co-operation and exchanges of information between Governments and among United Nations organizations.

93. The launching of the world conservation strategy, prepared by IUCN and WWF with the support of UNEP, was generally considered an important milestone in the integration of environmental considerations in development activities. To give it practical value, the strategy must be integrated into national, regional and international policies and programmes. One delegation advocated a global conservation strategy comprising sound environmental management of both protected and cultivated areas. Another welcomed the role of UNEP as a catalyst in the implementation of the Stockholm Conference recommendation on world trade in endangered species, as well as the fact that the funding of the international convention on that subject would be shared among the Parties. Another delegation said that the new initiative taken by the European Community on migratory bird protection should be noted by the Governing Council, while another expressed concern at the slaughter of dolphins in the Sea of Japan.

94. One delegation said that in June 1979 an extraordinary conference was to be held at Bonn to decide on the necessary financial arrangements to guarantee further implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. That conference would be held in conjunction with the final conference on the convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals, which would promote the wise use and management of that common resource. It was to be hoped that a similar financing arrangement would be agreed to for the latter as for the former convention. The delegation invited all members of the Governing Council and observer countries to attend the conference on the conservation convention.

95. Some delegations stressed the need for more work to be carried out in the area of appropriate, non-polluting, low-waste and environmentally sound technologies. One delegation suggested that UNEP should focus on the needs of developing countries for access to such technologies.

96. Many delegations expressed their satisfaction with the success UNEP had achieved in fostering regional co-operation for marine protection. A number of delegations commended UNEP for its vital role in the continuing success of the Mediterranean programme, which a few stated would be a valuable model for other regions. The establishment of a trust fund for the protection of the

Mediterranean Sea against pollution was generally welcomed, and one delegation announced its formal pledge to contribute to the financing of the plan of action. Another considered that support by UNEP in the Mediterranean area should continue as long as required to ensure that the co-operative efforts reached their full potential. The representative of Spain reiterated his Government's offer to make premises available at Barcelona for the secretariat of the Convention on the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution. One representative stated that his Government, although it had not yet ratified the Convention, would nevertheless undertake the activities and initiatives it required at the national level. Two delegations expressed their appreciation for the work carried out so far by UNEP and other international agencies with regard to the Kuwait Convention and action plan, and highlighted the need for full utilization of national and local capabilities in the region in the design and implementation of the related projects. One delegation urged UNEP to speed up its work in the Gulf of Guinea. Another expressed concern at oil pollution on the high seas and indicated the need for concerted international action to alleviate the problem.

97. A number of delegations noted that there was an increasing need for energy conservation, and for research programmes on alternative and renewable energy sources, in order to encourage a more rational, economic and environmentally sound use of energy. Work in that direction should be intensified at both the national and the international levels, and UNEP should expand its activities in that area. Two speakers emphasized in particular the importance of alternative rural energy supplies, a problem which had special importance in many developing countries where supplies of firewood were dwindling. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of UNEP to meet the basic energy needs of rural people through establishment of rural energy demonstration centres which would demonstrate the technical, economic and social feasibility of jointly harnessing solar, wind and biogas energy.

98. Several delegations stressed the importance they attached to the question of environmental law, and one, supported by another, suggested that consideration be given to the preparation of an international code of conduct for environmental protection. Others suggested that it would be useful to consider the long-term work needed to further the development of international environmental law. Some delegations said that work by UNEP on environmental law should remain at its present level, while one delegation expressed deep concern at what it viewed as the slow progress in reaching goal 20 for 1982 and urged delegations to influence their Governments to take a more positive and constructive attitude towards the development of international environmental law. Others said that progress would necessarily be slow, since many of the issues involved had sensitive implications, inter alia for the principle of State sovereignty: UNEP should not attempt, therefore, to develop binding instruments on such complex issues as shared natural resources, environmental damage and compensation, etc. One of those delegations felt that there was need for more in-depth preparatory work at all levels, and suggested that UNEP might consider developing a promotion plan as a first step towards a better understanding of the issues involved.

99. One representative commended the recommendations of the consultant's report on the environmental impact of the United Nations system, especially the recommendation that maximum assistance should be given to developing countries in drafting environmental legislation, improving existing legislation and ensuring an adequate national structure for enforcement.

100. One delegation said that the environmental law activities of UNEP should not at present deal with the question of responsibility and liability for environmental damage, which was too general; rather, they should concentrate on specific issues, such as legal aspects of transboundary pollution. Some representatives stressed in that connexion the importance for the development of international environmental law of the convention and resolution on long-range transboundary air pollution which would be adopted in 1979 at the high-level meeting to be convened under the auspices of ECE, and would, it was hoped, serve as a model for other regions. One delegation noted that the question of liability and compensation remained part of the work required of UNEP under Governing Council decision 66 (IV) of 13 April 1976, urged that that work be completed, and noted that its Government was associated with others in providing their domestic legislation in that regard.

101. A number of delegations expressed regret that, despite the commendable work accomplished by UNEP on the subject and the effort which had been committed to it, the General Assembly had not yet been able to adopt the principles of conduct for the harmonious utilization of shared natural resources submitted to it by the Governing Council. One delegation stressed that, in order to ensure adequate follow-up action, the decision of the General Assembly calling on the Secretary-General to ascertain the views of Member States on that important and complex subject should first be implemented. Another expressed its intention to advocate, at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the adoption of the 15 draft principles of conduct: whatever follow-up might then be required should fall within the purview of UNEP and its environmental law group. Another delegation considered that the issue of shared natural resources related not only to environmental law but also to the nature and dynamics of natural resources. UNEP should pay closer attention to the national aspects of that problem, to ensure in particular that developing countries were encouraged to introduce meaningful environmental legislation and that where specific groups of countries shared certain resources, every possible assistance was rendered to them in establishing appropriate codes of conduct. The latter suggestion was endorsed by another delegation.

102. A number of delegations considered that efforts in environmental education and training should be increased. Stress was placed on the importance of developing relevant programmes at the country level, in order to achieve popular participation in environmental activities, as well as at the regional level, where such programmes could encourage co-operative ventures among countries of the region. A number of delegations felt that the International Centre for Training and Education in Environmental Sciences (CIFCA) should become an autonomous international organization responsible for co-ordinating educational and training programmes both within Latin America and between that region and others. One delegation stated that the various study tours and training courses sponsored in its country by UNEP on such subjects as prevention and treatment of schistosomiasis, desertification control, construction of small hydro-power stations in mountainous areas, and human settlements had been most useful. Another requested UNEP to provide its Government with basic literature and other audio-visual material.

103. Several delegations stressed the need to intensify the technical assistance activities of UNEP in the field of the environment and to give them high priority in order to assist the development efforts of developing countries. Some said that UNEP should now move from the phase of programme identification to that of direct co-operation with Governments at the regional and national level. A

request was made that UNEP should give adequate technical assistance to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and should devise an appropriate environmental strategy for the Palestinian people, with particular regard for their human settlements problems.

104. The representative of the PLO reviewed the history of the Palestinian people over the past 60 years, emphasizing their plight, which was reflected in severe problems of malnutrition, pollution, lack of health services and inadequate shelter and personal care facilities. The representative of the United States of America, on a point of order, stated that the PLO representative had addressed the Council as a representative of that organization and not of any other group or organization.

105. The representative of the Commission of the European Communities described the programme of action in the field of the environment adopted by the European Community for 1977-1981, which aimed at the establishment of a general environmental protection policy based primarily on the preventive approach, and said that the numerous activities of UNEP would significantly contribute to the implementation of the programme.

106. The representative of OAU described some of the major environmental problems on the African continent, particularly in the areas of desertification, water resources, deforestation, water-borne diseases and wildlife conservation, and reported on measures recently taken by OAU to alleviate some of these problems.

107. The representative of CMEA described the environmental activities of CMEA in the implementation of its co-operative development programmes, as well as its collaboration with UNEP in furtherance of activities of common interest. He noted that a draft memorandum of understanding between UNEP and CMEA was being finalized.

108. The representative of the Non-governmental Organizations' Environment Liaison Centre, speaking on behalf of the community of non-governmental organizations, reviewed the contributions it had made in many of UNEP's areas of concern. He stressed the importance of additional efforts, by UNEP as well as by United Nations organizations and Governments, in the area of environmental education and training and the need for UNEP to intensify its role in providing early warning of environmental trends and to be more active in assessing the impact of nuclear power and exploring alternative renewable sources of energy.

109. The Chinese delegation, exercising its right of reply, said that the so-called aggression of China against Viet Nam, as alleged by the Soviet delegation, had in fact been a counter-attack in self-defence, which was justified by the repeated incursions into China's border areas carried out by Viet Nam with the backing of Soviet social-imperialism. The Chinese Government had repeatedly served warnings against such sharply increased incursions, but Viet Nam, relying on the support of the Soviet Union, had mistaken the Chinese people's restraint as a sign of weakness. The action by China had been absolutely one of self-defence, which a sovereign State must take. Such action was therefore entirely just and had enjoyed the sympathy and support of the people of all countries who upheld justice and loved peace. China did not want a single inch of Vietnamese territory, but at the same time would not tolerate any incursions into its border areas. After reaching their goals of striking back at the Vietnamese aggressors, the Chinese frontier forces had long since withdrawn

completely to Chinese territory. The Chinese delegation pointed out in particular that Soviet social-imperialism was the chief supporter and behind-the-scene boss of Vietnamese regional hegemonism. It was with abetment and backing of Soviet social-imperialism that the Vietnamese authorities had brazenly subjected Democratic Kampuchea, a sovereign State, to their aggression and military occupation, thus trampling underfoot the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international relations. The Chinese delegation further pointed out that, in defiance of the condemnation by all countries and people who upheld justice, more than 100,000 aggressor troops of the Vietnamese authorities backed by the Soviet Union were still occupying Democratic Kampuchea and continued perpetrating crimes of burning, killing, looting and plundering as well as causing great damage to the environment. In conclusion, the Chinese delegation reiterated that the Soviet Union had engaged in large-scale arms expansion, intervention, domination, subversion and plunder everywhere, yet it talked glibly about disarmament and détente, which were practically nothing but lies to cover up its actions of aggression and expansion.

110. The Soviet delegation pointed out that the reply by the Chinese delegation was self-revelatory, and merely confirmed the justice of the Soviet condemnation of the Chinese aggression against Viet Nam. Indeed, to seriously describe Viet Nam as a "great imperialist power" indicated the complete absence of a sense of humour. The Soviet delegation requested the inclusion in the report of the following statement:

"The interests of world peace require the complete withdrawal of Chinese troops from Vietnamese territory, the cessation of border provocations and the abandonment by the leaders in Beijing of all encroachments on the independence and territorial integrity of Viet-Nam and other countries."

111. Responding to comments made in the general debate, the Executive Director said that the Governing Council seemed in favour of holding annual meetings until 1983, and reviewing that practice at its 1982 session; including the duration of sessions to a maximum of 10 days; holding the general debate in plenary at a later date than at the very beginning of the sessions; and holding informal consultations at an earlier date, with a number of delegations supporting their being convened in the first half of December. With regard to the organization of work of the Council, there still seemed to be some uncertainty as to whether it would be preferable to concentrate on programme and budgetary and administrative matters in alternate years, or to continue the practice of considering them every year. There had been wide support for the idea of holding in 1982 a special session of the Governing Council which would review the 1982 state of the environment report, a document which would not be available to the General Assembly and on which the Council's guidance and comments would therefore be indispensable. If the Council adopted in principle the proposal to hold such a session, he would report to it in 1980 on the legal, organizational and financial implications of such a proposal, taking into full account the need to minimize the cost of such a session to the Fund.

112. He was gratified at the wide measures of support expressed for UNEP's participation in and contribution to the preparations for the new international development strategy. He would address the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy at its June session in New York. He was also appreciative of the support expressed by delegations for the work undertaken or planned by UNEP to concretize its contribution to the strategy, and appealed to Governments for additional inputs to the study UNEP was preparing on the costs and benefits of environmental protection measures.

113. The general debate had revealed that, among the subjects proposed for the 1980 state of the environment report, the most widely supported were transport and the environment; the child and the environment; heavy metal poisoning; the environmental effects of military activity; and climatic change, deforestation, atmosphere carbon dioxide and the carbon cycle. He took it that the Governing Council wished those five subjects to be covered in the report.

114. Replying to a question on the preparation of the 1982 state of the environment report, he explained that he was assisted by an advisory board composed of 14 eminent scientists from 12 countries representing all regions of the world. Sixteen themes had been identified for coverage in that report and contributors included one United Nations agency, one non-governmental organization (IUCN), and senior scientists and specialized institutions in 13 countries. The cost of the project so far amounted to \$840,000, including \$100,000 equivalent in non-convertible currencies.

115. The Executive Director noted with appreciation that many delegations had called for increased financial support to UNEP in order for it to be able to meet its responsibilities under the medium-term plan. That would only be possible if the \$150 million target for the Fund were met. He was specially grateful to those Governments which had pledged increased contributions to that end. He had noted the suggestion that, as a basic responsibility of UNEP, the assessment function should receive continuous support, while environmental management activities might be supported for a limited time only. The assessment function was presently discharged by three programme activity centres, namely GEMS, INFOTERRA and IRPTC, the establishment of which had been approved by the Governing Council. They would be maintained unless the Governing Council specifically agreed to a recommendation by the Executive Director to end their activity.

116. With regard to regional questions, he fully supported the idea of strengthening the regional structures of UNEP and of holding regional consultations. On the suggestion that UNEP should shift its programme emphasis from global to regional and national concerns, he wished to remind the Governing Council that Fund policy was governed by General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), section III, paragraphs 5 and 6.

117. Regarding evaluation questions, he pointed out that UNEP had a mechanism for project evaluation, but that it was extremely difficult to evaluate the totality of the programme, including the catalytic role of UNEP and its impact on environmental improvement. He reiterated his request for views in that regard.

118. With regard to the use of non-convertible currencies, he wished to confirm that he took fully into account the need for efficiency and geographical distribution of projects and project personnel. A suggestion had been made that UNEP should reduce to a minimum its contribution to projects in which other agencies of the system co-operated: that was not in line with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), and UNEP would continue to assess participation in projects on the basis of their merit. An important consideration in that regard was the need for UNEP, in deciding whether and to what extent it should enter into joint projects with other agencies, to take into account the enormous amounts which had been spent or were being spent by the agencies in various sectors of interest to the programme; advantage should be taken of such important investments. The Governing Council had itself identified criteria for the undertaking by UNEP of new activities: the new activities proposed in his

introductory statement, dealing with deforestation and the problem of carbon dioxide, were fully consistent with those criteria. The secretariat was ready to provide Governments with any information they required on projects although he understood that, by and large, information contained in the Report to Governments appeared to be satisfactory to most of them. He proposed to enter in 1980 into programme budgeting within the medium-term plan framework. That would permit specific objectives to be set, with strategies to implement them within given time frames.

119. With regard to the concern expressed regarding trade in toxic chemicals, the decision taken in 1977 by the Governing Council on that question had been brought to the attention of Governments, but responses had been so far very scant. The activities of UNEP in the area of food contamination were proceeding satisfactorily and had already yielded useful results. On the work of the Group of Experts on Environmental Law he wished to reassure delegations that the Group would only deal with the legal aspects of off-shore mining; it would be provided with the technical information required to complete its work.

120. A meeting of experts would be convened in 1979 to consider a draft plan of action for the Gulf of Guinea, followed by another meeting in 1980; it was expected that the draft plan would be finalized by the middle of that year. He thanked the non-governmental organizations for their pledge to support adequate governmental funding for the Environment Fund, and pointed out that the UNEP report on the impacts of nuclear energy was not yet finalized.

Action by the Governing Council

121. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 3 May 1979, the Governing Council considered a draft decision suggested by the President on programme policy and implementation.

122. Referring to section IV of the draft decision, entitled "State of the environment report", the President indicated that topic (d), "Environmental effects of military activities", was to be taken to include, although that was not explicitly stated in the text, the question of material remnants of war.

123. The representative of France suggested the deletion of that topic, since it was a controversial one, whereas the other topics to be included had been unanimously supported.

124. The representative of Algeria stressed his Government's interest in maintaining the topic, primarily because it subsumed the question of material remnants of war, which, although it had been on the Governing Council's agenda for a number of years, had not yet yielded concrete results. In its view, including such a topic in the state of the environment report 1980 would provide an opportunity to gather the kind of background information needed to decide whether or not further action should be taken in that regard.

125. The President put to the vote the issue of whether the topic "Environmental effects of military activities" should be included in the list of topics for treatment in the state of the environment report 1980.

At the request of the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the vote was taken by roll call.

The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, having been drawn by lot, was called upon to vote first.

The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Colombia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mexico, Romania, Senegal, Tunisia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand.

The Governing Council decided, by 22 votes to 14, with 6 abstentions, to include the topic "Environmental effects of military activities" in the 1980 state of the environment report.

126. The representative of China explained that, in the view of the Chinese Government, that topic should be considered at the Conference on Disarmament or in other appropriate forums. In view of the controversial aspects of the question, his delegation had decided not to take part in the vote.

127. The Governing Council then adopted, without a vote, the draft decision on programme policy and implementation. 5/

128. At the same meeting, the Governing Council considered a draft decision on the environmental conditions of the Palestinian people, submitted by Algeria, Bangladesh, Iraq, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia.

129. Introducing the draft decision on behalf of the sponsors, the representative of Kuwait said that it aimed at ensuring that UNEP's catalytic role would be adequately used in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 33/110 of 18 December 1978 on the living conditions of the Palestinian people. The draft decision would ensure an adequate assessment of the environmental conditions of the Palestinian people in the implementation of that resolution. He then listed the organizations and offices of the United Nations system which were already involved in that implementation, and stated that the role of UNEP was to ensure that the environmental conditions of all people were of acceptable standard.

130. The representative of the United States, invoking rule 44 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, questioned the competence of the Governing Council to add to or modify General Assembly resolution 33/110, which did not include environmental conditions as one of the topics to be studied under that resolution.

5/ See annex I below, decision 7/1.

131. The President put to the vote, under rule 44 of the rules of procedure, the issue of whether the Council was competent to adopt the draft decision on the environmental conditions of the Palestinian people.

At the request of the delegation of the United States of America, the vote was taken by roll call.

The delegation of Mexico, having been drawn by lot, was called upon to vote first.

The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republics, China, Colombia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Pakistan, Romania, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Malawi, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Japan, Spain, Thailand.

The Governing Council decided, by 27 votes to 12, with 3 abstentions, that it was competent to adopt the draft decision.

132. The delegation of Iraq, speaking on behalf of the Arab countries represented in the Council, stated that the United States of America sought to ignore anything related to the Palestinian people by taking the view that such matters were political, and the Governing Council should therefore not discuss them. It was, however, obvious that the draft decision before the Council was humanitarian and technical in nature. It was paradoxical that the United States Government was so keen on preserving the environment and including environmental considerations in the international development strategy, but regarded as "political" attempts directed at reducing the risk of war and, as a result, protecting the environment from its damaging effects. He added that, while it was true that UNEP dealt with technical matters, it was impossible completely to separate the matter under consideration from international political aspects. He therefore appealed to delegations to support the draft decision, which was designed to promote both world peace and a sound environment.

133. The delegation of the United States of America, explaining its vote and the position of its Government on the issue, said that the United States and the delegations which had supported its position were not voting against the sponsors of the draft or against the Palestinian people, with whose conditions they had considerable sympathy, but were in fact voting for UNEP. The draft decision under consideration could not be regarded, in their view, as anything but a political issue, of a kind which properly belonged in the General Assembly and not in the Governing Council. Considerable progress had been accomplished by UNEP since its inception, particularly through the recognition that environmental issues were not the concern of the developed countries alone, but the survival of mankind was dependent on the preservation of the resource base. The United States had

initiated or supported at past sessions of the Council as well as at its current session, numerous proposals designed to achieve that end. He therefore urged that delegations seriously consider the consequences of the introduction of political issues in the Governing Council.

134. The representative of Israel said that the draft decision under consideration was politically motivated and bore no relevance to environmental issues. He referred to a number of actions by Arab States. He stated that there were other more appropriate forums for discussion of such issues, and he therefore urged that the Governing Council not be turned into another political arena: that would constitute a dangerous precedent which might harm UNEP.

135. The delegation of Kuwait reiterated that in the view of the sponsors, the draft decision dealt with an environmental, not a political, issue.

136. The representative of the PLO recalled that in his statement during the general debate, he had done nothing to divert the Council from its task, but had focused on the environmental aspects of the situation of the Palestinian people. He asked who had been responsible for razing Palestinian villages and displacing Palestinian people.

137. The representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, described the statement made by the representative of Israel as completely meaningless and lacking in respect for the Governing Council.

138. The President put the draft decision to the vote.

At the request of the delegation of the United States of America, the vote was taken by roll call.

The delegation of the Philippines, having been drawn by lot, was called upon to vote first.

The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Colombia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Pakistan, Romania, Senegal, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Malawi, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The draft decision was adopted by 29 votes to 1, with 11 abstentions. 6/

6/ See annex I below, decision 7/2.

139. The delegation of Colombia, speaking in explanation of vote, said that it had voted in favour of the draft decision because it was in line with Security Council resolution 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 on the Middle East. Nevertheless, it was of the view that specialized forums of the United Nations should not enter into debates of a political nature, since to do so distracted them from the purposes for which they had been established.

CHAPTER III

CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS

140. In considering agenda item 6 (a) and (b) at the 8th and 9th meetings of the session, on 26 and 27 April 1979, the Council had before it the report of ACC on interagency co-ordination in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.7/5) and the Executive Director's note on the system-wide medium-term environment programme (UNEP/GC.7/6). Agenda item 6 (c) was considered by Sessional Committee I in the context of its debate on the environment programme.

141. Introducing the item, the Executive Director stressed that ACC had expressed its willingness to extend full co-operation to UNEP in the preparation of a system-wide medium-term environment programme, for the development of which thematic joint programming would provide the basis. ACC had also taken note with satisfaction of the study on the environmental impact of the activities of the United Nations system, prepared by a consultant, a summary of which was annexed to the ACC report.

142. An important element in his note on the system-wide medium-term environment programme was its discussion on the methodology involved in the United Nations medium-term planning process, in which it was pointed out that there was need for a convergence of that process with UNEP's programming and that the Governing Council should provide the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) with its comments on the medium-term plan. The system-wide medium-term environment programme would be developed in two stages. In the first stage there should be a convergence between the programming process of UNEP and of the United Nations itself. With regard to those matters falling within the purview of the United Nations medium-term plan, it was suggested that the environment chapter of that plan should be the principal programme document for the Governing Council. The environment chapter would cover all the activities within the environment programme to be carried out in the medium-term period. Methods developed in that first stage for the presentation of the United Nations medium-term plan should, in the second stage, be employed in the preparation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme document, which should be submitted to the Governing Council at its tenth session in 1982.

143. Delegations generally supported the Executive Director's proposals concerning the development of a system-wide medium-term programme. The submission of that programme to the Governing Council for its comments, before its submission to CPC, was also generally endorsed, and it was pointed out that its successful development on the basis of thematic joint programming would depend on the extent to which it engendered co-operation amongst the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and on the level of support which Governments expressed for it in the governing bodies of the agencies. It was also generally felt that the move towards specific objectives to be achieved through appropriate strategies within given time frames would strengthen the impact of the environment programme and provide the kind of built-in evaluation system needed for the Governing Council to discharge its policy function and guidance responsibilities effectively. The Executive Director's proposal to develop a perspective document, providing the context for the medium-term programme document, was also generally supported. It was pointed

out in that connexion that such a perspective document should be based not on a subjective review of the environmental problems facing the world community, but on the environmental assessment that Earthwatch was established to produce.

144. One delegation said that the system-wide medium-term environment programme should not lead to the elimination of the three-level programmatic approach, and suggested that, at Level One, there should be an evaluation of real needs, which could be supplemented by a scale of priorities. Another delegation, while endorsing the Executive Director's proposals regarding medium-term planning and the development of the system-wide programme, expressed some misgivings about the fact that major changes in the documentation might be entailed by the exercise, thus creating additional work for both the secretariat and delegations.

145. One delegation stressed that thematic joint programming and the work of harmonizing their programme budgets and medium-term plans would in due course enable the various components of the United Nations system to co-operate more effectively with each other, with a minimum of extra administrative effort and with a clearer sense of contributing to the achievement of specific mutually agreed objectives. The proposals of the Executive Director, which it endorsed, would have a major impact on the way the work of the Governing Council would be conducted in the future. The changes envisaged could not be introduced overnight in a system as large and complex as the United Nations. While the programme structure had served reasonably satisfactorily since the first session of the Governing Council, it might well be useful if careful consideration were given to the programme and subprogramme structure to be used when the new medium-term planning process was introduced. The Executive Director might wish to consider forming a small consultative group made up of Governments and agency representatives to help develop such a structure. Furthermore, the utilization of computer techniques, coupled with the development of a suitable coding system, would enable both UNEP and the agencies to have programme and subprogramme structures specifically designed to meet their own requirements and produce relevant information to meet each other's needs. There should be approval of biennial Fund and regular budget allocations compatible with the UNEP figures contained in the medium-term plan, followed by review and adjustment after the first year of the biennium. The perspective document should be reviewed at every other session, since the progress achieved in the course of one year would not be sufficient to warrant annual reviews.

146. Another delegation strongly endorsed the main aspects of the proposals made by the Executive Director, and said that it was essential to allow for some flexibility so as not to make the planning technique counter-productive from the point of view of UNEP's over-all objectives. Should emergencies or contingency situations with severe environmental impact arise, the provision of UNEP's assistance should not be hampered by administrative rigidities built into the planning and budgetary systems. In the final design of the planning system, an effort should be made to avoid over-sophistication and complexity.

147. The same delegation said that the Governing Council should be given the opportunity to continue in some form the in-depth studies of selected issues after the end of the present cycle of such studies in 1981. While the Governing Council should concentrate in alternate years on the revision and adoption of the system-wide medium-term environment programme, the programme perspective document should be reviewed every year.

148. The representative of UNESCO, speaking on behalf of the specialized agencies of the United Nations, expressed the view that, although direct co-operation with national and non-governmental organizations was sometimes appropriate, the co-ordination and stimulation functions of UNEP should primarily be exercised within and through the United Nations system, and that UNEP should avoid engaging in operational activities falling within the competence of other United Nations organizations. The agencies welcomed the progressive development of a system-wide medium-term environment programme. He stressed however that most of the difficulties currently encountered in co-operating with UNEP were not due to the absence of such a programme. If the concerns of the specialized agencies were fully taken into consideration, he was confident that difficulties in co-operation could be rapidly overcome.

149. The Executive Director expressed broad agreement with what had been said during the debate. He shared the view that the new system should leave room for flexibility. With regard to the perspective document, he hoped that there would be agreement on its review every other year, not only because the kind of information it would contain might not lend itself to yearly review. He also mentioned that the Council might agree to the idea of over-all updating of the information in the areas already discussed in depth, since the state of the environment report, prepared yearly, would focus on emerging problems. He also fully endorsed the idea that over-sophistication should be avoided in the development of the new system. There was no intention to change the three-level programmatic approach. The smoothness of the transition towards the system-wide medium-term programme was guaranteed by its being started only in 1984, thus leaving enough time for the required adjustments. At any rate, it would not be possible to launch the new system earlier, since it would only be in 1984 that the programme budgeting cycles of the United Nations agencies would coincide. He had noted the idea of a small consultative group, as suggested by one delegation, but would have to consult with other members of the United Nations system on that proposal. He hoped that there would be agreement on a suitable coding system, as suggested by the same delegation. He also reiterated his view that the use of the Fund should follow the directions given by the General Assembly in resolution 2997 (XXVII).

Action by the Governing Council

150. The decision on programme policy and implementation includes the action by the Governing Council in respect of co-ordination questions (decision 7/1, sect. II).

CHAPTER IV

PROGRAMME MATTERS

151. Agenda item 7 was assigned to Sessional Committee I for consideration. For an account of the organization of the Committee's work, see paragraph 15 above.

152. In considering the item, the Committee had before it documents UNEP/GC.7/7 and Corr.1 and 3 and Add.1, UNEP/GC.7/8, UNEP/GC.7/9 and UNEP/GC/INFORMATION/1/Rev.2, and UNEP/GC/INFORMATION/5/Supplement 2. The Committee agreed to consider agenda items 6 (c) (UNEP/GC/INFORMATION/6/Add.2 and Corr.1), 8 (UNEP/GC.7/12 and Add.1) and 12 (UNEP/GC.7/18) at the appropriate points in its consideration of the environment programme.

A. General comments

153. Introducing the programme document (UNEP/GC.7/7 and Corr.1 and 3 and Add.1), the Assistant Executive Director, Bureau of the Programme pointed out that the document represented the secretariat's response to Governing Council decision 6/2, paragraph 2.

154. While there was general agreement that the form of the programme document was a significant improvement and should be tested over a number of years before further changes were introduced, one delegation felt that further evolution within the present form would help Governments provide policy guidance and decide on how resources could be utilized more effectively. Some delegations felt that the tables on budgetary implications could be somewhat misleading unless they were made more comprehensive, while others felt that the budgetary information would be more meaningful if it were given at the subline level.

155. The representatives of two United Nations specialized agencies underlined that the concise presentation of the programme document could give an erroneous impression of the environmental activities carried out by the United Nations system, which were very extensive, and in particular that the budgetary figures given could be accurate only for the contributions of the Environment Fund. One of them expressed doubts as to the logical coherence of the programme chapters, and stressed the difficulty of making a rigid distinction between assessment and management.

B. Environmental assessment

1. Earthwatch

156. Many delegations expressed concern over the apparent lack of the assessment component, which was intended to integrate the individual functions of Earthwatch while at the same time directing attention to new data needs. Several delegations, however, recognized the difficulties involved, and asked that the Governing Council give guidance in that respect. A proposal for the formation of an ad hoc advisory

group received support, and some delegations felt that the in-depth review of Earthwatch should be brought forward to the eighth session of the Council.

(a) Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS)

157. Many delegations noted with satisfaction that GEMS activities were now beginning to yield results. It was noted that the apparent lack of a well articulated strategy for global environmental monitoring had led to GEMS not making the full impact expected of it, in part because it did not take full advantage of national monitoring activities. It was stressed, however, that the main effort of GEMS should continue to be in co-operation with the specialized agencies. Concern was also expressed that there was no clear concept of how GEMS was expected to work once it became operational.

158. The need to synthesize, interpret and report on the data was considered of paramount importance. Reference was also made to the delay in producing assessed results from monitored data, and concern was expressed that in some field it would not be possible to produce such results until 1981.

159. Several delegations considered that GEMS should provide its own evaluation of the monitored data, while others felt that the information available from GEMS should be made more readily accessible to Governments in a form that was easily understood.

160. One delegation offered to make national experience of impact monitoring available, and expressed appreciation of the existing arrangement for carrying out research and assessment work at the Monitoring and Assessment Research Centre (MAR) with UNEP support.

161. One delegation expressed concern that, whereas the results and expectations of GEMS were increasing, its financial support from both UNEP and other agencies seemed to be decreasing. Information on the proposed future funding strategy for GEMS would therefore be useful.

162. It was emphasized that the important work currently being done by GEMS in developing methodologies for natural resources monitoring in tropical Africa should be extended to other areas, such as Latin America. Other delegations felt that forest cover monitoring should rapidly be expanded, particularly to other areas of Africa and the Amazon basin. One delegation stressed the need to extend rangeland monitoring activities to southern Africa.

163. Many delegations indicated the need to develop an environmental monitoring programme for the world network of biosphere reserves. The recent Oak Ridge and Riga meetings ^{7/} were mentioned in that respect, and one delegation requested UNEP to sponsor a modest meeting in the near future to consider how best to finalize the Oak Ridge findings.

^{7/} Respectively the United States National Committee of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme Workshop on Long-range Ecological Monitoring and the International Symposium on Integrated Global Monitoring of Environmental Pollution

164. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of the programme on long-range transport of pollutants over Europe (EMEP), and referred in that connexion to the forthcoming European high-level meeting on the environment. It was, however, pointed out that it would be some time before the programme could provide a sound financial and technical basis for practical and realistic abatement strategies. A number of delegations called on the Executive Director to continue UNEP support for the programme beyond its Phase I expiry date of 1980, pointing out that it could also serve as a valuable source of experience for comparable monitoring activities in other regions of the world. In the view of one delegation, however, provision should be made to review such support to the project in due course, since UNEP should not enter into open-ended funding commitments if it was to fulfil its catalytic role.

165. One delegation suggested the establishment of a sample bank which would permit future analysis of samples as new techniques became available. Another referred to the initiative of some countries in strengthening the environmental protection programme for Europe and proposed the creation of an all-European monitoring system within GEMS, while another stressed the importance of the development of a package for health-related monitoring consisting of component activities in water, food and air pollution monitoring.

166. Several delegations stressed the importance of water quality monitoring. One delegation suggested that there was a need to re-evaluate the criteria used for selecting water quality sampling stations. The representative of CEC announced the establishment of a network for water quality monitoring covering all the main rivers of the CEC region; data from the system could be made available to GEMS.

167. The representative of UNESCO stressed the value of such projects as the World Register of Rivers Discharging into the Oceans and the monitoring of glaciers, and expressed satisfaction at UNEP's co-operation with the specialized agencies in the GEMS programme.

168. At the conclusion of its debate on GEMS, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council a draft decision 8/ on monitoring of transboundary transmission of air pollutants, sponsored by the delegations of Denmark, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Norway, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia.

169. The secretariat indicated that when the decision became effective, in 1981, it would cost the Environment Fund approximately \$200,000 under present terms and conditions. The activity should be considered in conjunction with decision 7/3, paragraph 6; and in the view of UNEP, support for the project beyond 1980 would be progressively reduced.

(b) Information exchange

(i) International Referral System (INFOTERRA)

170. Delegations expressed their satisfaction with the rate of growth of INFOTERRA. Several pledged their Government's active support for the system, and one suggested

8/ For the text of the decision as adopted by the Council, see annex I below, decision 7/4 B.

the increased use of non-convertible currency to support its activities. Reference was made to the seminar on information exchange held in Czechoslovakia in November 1978, which had led to the creation of the regional centre for countries of Eastern Europe.

171. Several delegations complimented INFOTERRA on the high quality of its publications, which were considered very useful, especially the international Directory of Sources of Environmental Information. Some speakers stressed the importance of continuing efforts to promote a publicity programme in order to help users make greater use of INFOTERRA services, and offered active collaboration in that work.

172. The designation of model focal points was welcomed, and the importance of organizing training courses through them was stressed. A number of specific requests for assistance to national focal points were made.

173. Difficulties related to setting up documentation and archival facilities by national focal points and the payment of translation fees and document reproduction services, as well as other user costs, were brought out by several delegations. Some speakers stressed, however, that in a decentralized network, such as INFOTERRA, each country should, to the extent possible, provide adequate funding, staffing and resources to support those and other aspects of focal point operations. Others advocated UNEP support for the establishment of national focal points in developing countries, where they did not already exist. One delegation said that in its view the national focal points should not become information centres.

174. At the conclusion of its debate on INFOTERRA, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council a draft decision ^{9/} sponsored by the delegations of the African States attending the Council session, Colombia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

175. The secretariat indicated that the decision could be implemented within available financial resources.

(ii) International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC)

176. Many delegations noted with satisfaction the steady increase of participation by countries in IRPTC and expressed support for its work programme. An important activity of IRPTC should be to encourage the creation of national organizations to deal with the registration of potentially toxic chemicals.

177. Several delegations pointed out the importance of concentrating on a carefully selected list of key activities that could show results within a few years, with emphasis on the exchange of basic information especially relevant to developing countries. The assistance in the development of health criteria documents was seen as one such activity. One delegation was not in favour of the plan to associate IRPTC activities with the building of data banks or with the establishment of international environmental hazard alert systems, which might not be feasible within the limited resources available. Another stressed the importance of avoiding duplication with the ILO health hazard alert system and other similar efforts.

^{9/} Ibid., decision 7/4 C.

178. Other delegations emphasized, inter alia, the valuable contribution IRPTC could make to the establishment of national registers of toxic chemicals, the importance of the compilation of a list of registers and the collection of such data as production figures, and the need to promote a more sustained flow of information on IRPTC's activities. One delegation, supported by others, reiterated the need for international regulations regarding trade in chemicals, and information exchange between exporting and importing countries on properties of and trade in potentially toxic chemicals.

179. Several delegations mentioned the lack of publicity given to IRPTC's activities as one of the reasons why many countries had not been able to designate national correspondents, or otherwise take full advantage of the facilities offered through IRPTC.

180. It was pointed out that, although the concept of national correspondents was a sound one, care should be taken to ensure that the responsibilities that rightly belonged to IRPTC were not imposed on the national correspondents.

(c) Outer limits

(i) Assessment of basic human needs in relation to outer limits

181. There was general agreement with the programme proposed by the Executive Director. One delegation pointed to the need for a cautious approach, in view of the variation in the basic needs situation among countries and in national approaches to the problems involved.

(ii) Climatic changes

182. There was general agreement that the support extended by the Executive Director to WMO for the development of the World Climate Programme (WCP) should continue. A proposal that UNEP should inform WMO of its willingness to assume primary responsibility for the implementation of the climate impact studies subprogramme of WCP received support from some delegations. The representative of WMO said that, while he had no authority to commit WMO on the issue, the proposal was feasible and acceptable, and would be considered by the eighth WMO Congress. Two delegations stated, however, that WMO, which was responsible for the over-all co-ordination of WCP, should also retain responsibility for all its four subprogrammes, including the climate impact studies.

183. There was general agreement that UNEP should co-ordinate action on the urgent issue of CO₂. One delegation however, expressed the view that instead of the Executive Director's proposal to develop a World Plan of Action, an advisory board of scientists should be set up in consultation between UNEP, WMO and International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) to develop institutional arrangements and advise on the actions required.

184. At the conclusion of its debate on climatic change, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council a draft decision 10/ on climate and the environment, sponsored by Canada, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Sweden,

10/ Ibid., decisions 7/4 D and E.

the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

185. The secretariat indicated that the cost of implementing the former, and possibly also the latter, decision could be absorbed within available financial resources.

(iii) Weather modification

186. With one exception, all delegations which commented on the subject supported the Executive Director's plans to call a meeting of Government experts in September 1979 to consider principles and guidelines for weather modification. It was suggested, however, that such principles and guidelines should not be modified into a formal international treaty until further progress in scientific knowledge permitted such a development.

187. The Executive Director's support for the WMO Precipitation Enhancement Project was endorsed.

(iv) Risks to the ozone layer

188. One delegation expressed concern that the aspect of the action plan dealing with the study of the biological and human health effects of ozone depletion was lagging behind. The delegation of France extended an invitation to hold the third session of the Co-ordinating Committee on the Ozone Layer in Paris later in 1979.

(v) Bioproductivity

189. Several speakers stressed the importance of studying biogeochemical cycles and the interrelationship between the nitrogen, sulphur and carbon cycles, and supported the programme of activities proposed by the Executive Director.

190. The representative of UNESCO stressed that, in the view of the specialized agencies, national institutions should not be given international functions unless that appeared, after full consultations, to be the most appropriate mode of operation.

191. At the conclusion of its debate on Earthwatch, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council a draft decision 11/ on environmental assessment, sponsored by the delegations of Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

192. On the understanding that the proposed group would be a small ad hoc group, the secretariat indicated that the implementation of the decision could be absorbed within available financial resources.

11/ Ibid., decision 7/4 A.

2. Environmental data

193. Several delegations expressed their support for the programme on environmental data and for the suggested objectives and strategies. One delegation indicated the need to avoid duplication of the work of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the importance of environmental data to designing operational strategies in the field. The need to define the term "major environmental event" in connexion with the 1981 data base was mentioned, as was the importance of training to upgrade information delivery skills.

194. The Committee agreed to include its recommendations regarding environmental data in the general draft decision on programme matters (see para. 314 below).

C. Subject areas

1. Human settlements and human health

(a) Human settlements

195. Most delegations, while welcoming the assumption by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) of over-all responsibility for the subject area, endorsed the continued responsibility of UNEP for the environmental aspects of human settlements. General support was expressed for the newly formulated objective and strategies, and most delegations noted with satisfaction the workplan on human settlements. Some delegations cautioned that UNEP should determine priorities for action in accordance with the greatest needs, and with the potential for significant accomplishments, while others stressed the need for balanced urban and rural settlements planning. Several delegations noted the relationship between poverty and the environmental problems of human settlements, especially in developing countries. One delegation pointed out that a distinction should be made between existing and future settlements; it was basically the task of social policy to deal with the problems of the former, while for the latter, specific principles of environmental policy should be drawn up, closely linked with the population explosion and other aspects of environmental problems.

196. Many delegations expressed support for the dissemination of information on environmentally sound human settlements technology, with special emphasis on energy conservation, waste management, water supply, air quality and noise pollution. One delegation advocated concentration on building regional and subregional networks, rather than global ones, while another proposed that special emphasis should be placed on environmentally sound technologies appropriate to isolated rural areas. Another delegation, emphasizing the importance of energy and appropriate technology in relation to human settlements, called for an increase in the appropriate budget lines specifically to address settlements problems.

197. Attention was drawn to the need for increased emphasis on practical, environmentally sound guidelines for national, regional and local action, rather than the development of concepts and ideas. Some delegations stressed the importance of land-use planning, while others drew attention to the importance of social policy and the preservation of the cultural heritage in existing settlements. One delegation requested the development of human settlements programmes for pastoral nomad groups.

198. Many delegations welcomed the co-operation of UNEP, with the Centre in the field of human settlements, while some delegations suggested a further delineation of responsibilities between the two organizations. Some delegations questioned the rationale for the substantial increase in the indicative figures for the biennium 1980-1981 under the human settlements and human health budget line, and asked which of the two sub-lines would benefit from the increase. A number of delegations expressed the view that human settlements should be separated from human health and a separate budget line created for the subject area. One specifically stressed that the workplan could not be approved unless it was readjusted in line with the increased allocation.

199. The Assistant Executive Director, Bureau of the Programme, explained that the allocation to human settlements and human health was in line with the newly formulated plan developed in collaboration with Habitat and with the continued priority given by many delegations, especially those of developing countries, to the role of UNEP in human settlements, in collaboration with Habitat.

200. The Committee agreed to include its recommendations on human settlements in the general draft decision on programme matters (see para. 314 below).

(b) Health of people and of the environment

201. Many delegations endorsed the objectives, strategies and workplan on human health. General satisfaction was expressed at the progress of the programme on the health effects of environmental chemicals conducted in co-operation with WHO. The report on the principles and methods of evaluating the toxicity of chemicals was singled out as being particularly useful. One delegation felt that UNEP and the World Health Organization (WHO) should not restrict themselves to studying the harmful effects of toxic chemicals on human health only but should also look into their effects on the natural environment. The UNEP initiative on occupational health in co-operation with the ILO and WHO was noted with approval. One delegation said that health hazards, particularly in developing countries, were closely linked to poverty and that the eradication of poverty would greatly alleviate health problems.

202. Several delegations expressed concern about the effects that the chemicals used in the control of pests might have on non-target organisms, particularly those in the food chain, and on the environment as a whole. Some delegations urged UNEP to pay particular attention to the biological control of malaria, schistosomiasis and other diseases and cotton pests.

203. At the conclusion of its debate on health of people and of the environment, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council a draft decision 12/ sponsored by Algeria, Bangladesh, Botswana, Egypt, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia and the United Republic of Cameroon.

204. The secretariat indicated that the decision could entail an expenditure of between \$50,000 and \$60,000 under present conditions.

12/ Ibid., decision 7/5.

2. Terrestrial ecosystems

(a) Arid and semi-arid lands, including desertification

205. The report of the Committee on the above subject area appears as chapter V of the present report, under agenda item 8.

(b) Other terrestrial ecosystems

206. The objectives and activities were generally endorsed, but one delegation called for better delineation of priorities within the subject areas, while two expressed concern at the implications for the work plans as presented of the proposed lower indicative allocation figures for 1980-1981. The representative of the Council for Human Ecology drew attention to the absence, in the programme document, of concern for threatened population groups, inhabiting fragile ecosystems, who might be affected, against their will, by man-made ecological changes, and suggested that the subject might be included in the agenda for the eighth session of the Governing Council.

(i) Tropical woodlands and forest ecosystems

207. There was general support for the work plan, although one delegation said the underlying urgent needs should be more specific in terms of short- and long-term goals, and advocated higher FAO contributions to the field. There was general concern for the alarming rate of deforestation and its implications in terms of desertification. One delegation, supported by many others, pointed to the urgency of problems of deforestation and urged UNEP to convene an international meeting to draw up an integrated international plan of action on tropical forest management which would establish a division of responsibilities along the lines of the ozone layer plan of action. Another delegation cautioned that emphasis should be placed on implementing the decisions of recent meetings and on means for afforestation, rather than problems of deforestation, and urged UNEP to act catalytically, in order to ensure that environmental elements were not neglected.

208. One delegation requested UNEP to continue to support its Government's efforts for the effective launching of the regional documentation centre on tropical forest ecology in West Africa in co-operation with the United Nations organizations concerned, while several called attention to the importance of the tropical forest biomass for the prevention of desertification, and one urged UNEP to co-operate closely with MAB project No. 1. One delegation called attention to problems of temperate forests of the Mediterranean, while another voiced support for the trees programme, a third urged attention to problems associated with selective removal of prime timber species in tropical rain forests, and a fourth stressed the utility of agro-forestry for economic and environmental preservation. One delegation expressed support for the case study on sustained productivity of forests and the promotion of ecological check-lists for land-use planning, and advocated the publication of research notes for planners.

209. The representative of FAO said that FAO had an extensive programme in forestry, in which tropical and sub-tropical forests had high priority. The programme, which included management, processing and marketing of forest products, was oriented to

collaboration with and support for developing countries. The low FAO contribution indicated in the programme document was a result of different programme structuring. He then indicated the need to continue the activities on tropical forest monitoring and assessment.

(ii) Mountain, island, coastal and other ecosystems

210. The work plan was generally noted with approval. One delegation urged high priority for the management and preservation of mountain ecosystems, while another said more attention should be paid to oceanic island ecosystems. Another advocated in view of the limited resources, that action should concentrate on research and training in accordance with the greater needs. The same delegation, supported by another, endorsed the joint efforts undertaken by UNEP and MAB, including the proposed guidelines for ecologically sound management of mangroves in the Caribbean and the proposed projects for the Andes and the Himalayas.

211. The representative of UNESCO noted that MAB project No. 6, in the Andean region, was developing well with the support of UNEP, as were the projects in the Alps and the Himalayas.

(iii) Soils

212. The activities received general approval. One delegation, however, noted the slow implementation of the programme. Others stressed the need for better co-ordination and for exercise of the catalytic role of UNEP in combating soil deterioration and degradation. Another agreed with the urgent needs and welcomed the increased allocation, but stressed the need for multidisciplinary teams, intensified soil mapping, soil capability planning and a soil classification system. One delegation said that the strategy should not be limited to restoration of fertility, but should include enhancing natural productivity, and proposed an additional strategy on soil husbandry. Another delegation urged the development of the international charter on soils and a global information campaign, while another urged that training be given top priority.

213. The representative of FAO noted his organization's efforts in the production of soil maps in collaboration with UNEP.

(iv) Water

214. Several delegations welcomed the activities and work plan. One delegation expressed dissatisfaction at the proposal in objective (v) to use an international network of research and development centres to monitor rural water quality, while another said that the objective placed insufficient emphasis on water quality assessment. Several delegations advocated higher priority to the problems of environmental degradation and pollution. Another emphasized the role of UNEP in ensuring the integration of environmental considerations into water resources development, and noted the urgent need for the establishment of small pilot and demonstration water projects as adjuncts to existing projects. One delegation requested the assistance of UNEP, in co-operation with UNESCO, in the integrated water use project and in helping his Government to install river pollution monitoring stations.

215. Two representatives emphasized the importance of training, referring to training activities conducted in their countries, while another urged testing integrated technology, and a third stressed the need for integrated water supply and sanitation, in particular in rural areas. Another delegation proposed greater attention to inter-basin water transfer and storage for development, and said the water programme should be tied to the use of solar and wind energy. Another delegation asked the Executive Director to examine the involvement of UNEP in the projects for the International Drinking Water, Supply and Sanitation Decade, in consultation with the United Nations system, and to submit recommendations in that respect to the Council at its eighth session.

216. The representative of UNESCO said environmental aspects were difficult to separate from water management; the role of UNEP needed to be further defined, and there was a need for pilot research and demonstration projects on irrigated ecosystems.

217. The representative of OAU stressed the importance of monitoring water-borne diseases and drinking water in Africa.

(v) Genetic resources

218. General support was expressed for the programme and work plan. One delegation drew attention to the likely utility of microbial genetic material for solving environmental problems and improving crop production, welcomed collaborative efforts to achieve goal 8 for 1982, and urged countries to set up relevant genetic resources centres. Another supported UNEP's efforts and said that his country's two planned gene-banks would be most effective in an international framework.

219. One delegation said it was particularly appropriate for UNEP to catalyse action on genetic resources, a subject which was often not obvious to most Governments, especially because the genetic base for one country's food or export crops often lay within another country's jurisdiction. UNEP should develop by early 1980 a workable plan for in situ conservation, possibly through the creation of zones of crop diversity.

220. The representative of UNESCO noted the satisfactory development of the environmental microbiology activity within goal 8 for 1982, in collaboration with UNESCO.

(vi) Wildlife and protected areas

221. General support was expressed for the extensive activities of UNEP in the area. One delegation cautioned that work on national legislation and conventions should be considered only as essential first steps; training and education to create awareness were of prime importance in saving wildlife. Another delegation agreed that training was needed, and said that with regard to such conventions as the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere the emphasis should be on implementation, rather than revision. One delegation called on UNEP to co-operate with UNESCO, FAO and IUCN in improving the global network of protected areas including marine areas by including underrepresented habitats and improving the protection of existing reserves. Other delegations urged that priority be given to the establishment of nature reserves and particularly called for emphasis on marine habitats, as well as biosphere reserves. One delegation emphasized that the world's wildlife heritage was under

severe pressure, particularly from habitat destruction, and emphasized the importance of rational use of living resources.

222. The preparation of a world conservation strategy by IUCN in co-operation with UNEP received wide support, and several delegations hoped its main elements would be incorporated in the UNEP programme. Two delegations cautioned that the strategy should not aim only at conservation of representative ecosystems. One delegation said that the strategy was somewhat vague regarding environmental education, while another drew attention to the existence of regional bio-geographical classification systems as a basis for the establishment of a representative network of protected areas and further called upon UNEP to co-operate with IUCN in promoting the preparation of national lists of endangered species. Another delegation urged UNEP to provide guidance for regional and national follow-up of the strategy, while another requested UNEP to consider requesting Governments to report periodically on progress in its implementation.

223. Many delegations welcomed the decisions taken at the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, held at San José, Costa Rica, from 19 to 30 March 1979, including the holding of an extraordinary meeting at Bonn on 23 June 1979 to decide on financial arrangements for the Convention secretariat. One delegation stressed that voluntary contributions from the parties would still be required until the entry into force of the new arrangements. Another stressed that UNEP should maintain its full share of support on the agreed declining basis through 1982-1983, and should be receptive to programme requests under the Convention. States were urged to become parties to the Convention.

224. Many delegations welcomed the convening of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the Draft Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals to be held at Bonn from 11 to 23 June 1979. One called for UNEP to co-operate in finalizing the Convention, while others stressed the need for caution regarding a possible commitment by UNEP to meeting the cost of a secretariat, and proposed an arrangement similar to that recently agreed to for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

225. Several delegations urged Governments to accede to the Convention on Wetland of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, and hoped the first meeting of the parties would soon be held.

226. The representative of UNESCO stressed the biosphere reserve concept as a new tool in effective conservation of natural resources, expressed regret that support had not yet been forthcoming from UNEP in biosphere reserves establishment in arid and semi-arid lands, and called for effective operation of the Ecosystem Conservation Group.

227. The representative of FAO stressed the need for conservation of natural resources including wildlife and protected areas.

228. At the conclusion of its debate on terrestrial ecosystems other than arid and semi-arid lands, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council draft decisions ^{13/} on tropical woodlands and forests ecosystems, sponsored by the

^{13/} Ibid., decisions 7/6 A, B and C.

delegations of the African and Asian States represented at the Council session, and of Australia, Austria, Canada, Colombia, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America, soils policy, sponsored by the delegations of Benin, Colombia, Kenya and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, sponsored by the delegations of Australia, Germany, Federal Republic of, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay. The first of the draft decisions was amended in the Committee by the delegation of Brazil. The Committee also recommended for adoption by the Governing Council amendments to the strategies for soils proposed by the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

229. The secretariat indicated that the first two of the decisions could be implemented within available financial resources, while the third would entail no additional financial implications for the Environment Fund.

3. Environment and development

(a) Integrated approach to environment and development, including eco-development

230. Most delegations supported the initiatives of UNEP in the area, describing it as one of the key elements of the programme. Several delegations supported the new formulation of the objectives and strategies, while others proposed changes in the text.

231. Several delegations emphasized the role of UNEP in developing and promoting methodologies, while recognizing the intrinsic difficulty associated with the formulation of methodologies for such a complex subject as environment and development. Two delegations pointed to the shift from undertaking the usual type of environmental impact statement to establishing long-term practices for sound environmental development. Several delegations welcomed the proposed flexible approach to evolving environmental impact assessment, while one speaker stressed the need for environmental assessment and its inclusion in development aid programmes.

232. There was strong support from delegations for the active participation of the Executive Director in the preparation of the new international development strategy, in which environment-development issues should figure prominently. It was suggested that UNEP should institutionalize its inputs into the work of other organs of the United Nations system on the development of the new strategy and that individual Governments should also convey the views and decisions of the Governing Council, through their representatives taking part in the negotiations on the strategy. It was proposed that global redeployment of polluting industries and ways of avoiding careless exploitation of natural resources should be taken into account in the process of preparing the strategy and implementing the new international economic order. Several delegations also drew attention to the importance of incorporating environmental concerns into the deliberations of such meetings as the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

233. A number of delegations welcomed the effort made by UNEP to organize the seminars on alternative patterns of development and lifestyles, as a contribution

to evolving long-term and preventive strategies. One, however, expressed the view that the seminars might be pitched at too high a level of abstraction, and that they should instead be aimed at practitioners and decision-makers.

234. One delegation stressed the importance of the impacts of agricultural practice and production on the global environment, and it was pointed out that "ecofarming", which offered important potential for developing countries, merited systematic research and development. One delegation underlined the importance of such projects as the pilot project on methods of instituting environmental concerns in development planning, and called on UNEP to participate in the implementation stage, expected to start in 1981.

235. Several delegations proposed an increased budget allocation to the environment and development programme. The Deputy Assistant Executive Director, in response, said that the budget allocation to this area was in reality more than it appeared, since expenditures in the area were built in to many other activities of UNEP.

236. Several delegations stressed the importance which should be attached to cost-benefit studies of environmental policies and welcomed the initiative taken by the Executive Director in that respect.

(b) Environmentally sound and appropriate technology

237. Delegations generally approved the programme of work plan for the area and supported the revised objectives and strategies recommended by the Executive Director, although one delegation pointed out that several of the strategies were too general, and needed rewording for clarity.

238. Several delegations emphasized that technology assessment and technological choice constituted an extremely important element in environmental policy, and should be a central concern of decision-makers. Others noted that clean, low, and non-waste and environmentally sound technologies should be at the centre of the work undertaken by UNEP, and several noted the apparent neglect of the transport sector in the programme.

239. Delegations expressed support for the publications on environmentally sound and appropriate technology. One delegation suggested that action might be taken to follow-up on the use made of UNEP publications in that and other areas, and to assess users' views on the usefulness of such publications. However, some said that publications mentioned in the programme document were not easily available in their countries, and stressed the need for an information system on environmentally sound and appropriate technology. Several stressed the importance of the joint UNEP/ECE project on information on low-waste and non-waste technology in the European region, which could also be very useful for developing countries, and some of them said their Governments intended to supply information for inclusion in the planned compendium, which UNEP would disseminate to countries in other regions. The importance of the related seminar to be convened by ECE later in 1979 was also stressed. A number of delegations of east European countries indicated their Governments' willingness to initiate a joint co-operative programme in the field of low-waste technologies and recycling.

240. Several delegations of developing countries mentioned the importance of environmental consideration in the process of transfer of technology, and said that UNEP should help countries to formulate policies and give them guidelines for the

transfer of technology in the broader framework of industrialization. The joint UNEP-UNCTAD programme on transfer of technology and environmentally related issues was noted in that connexion.

241. One delegation suggested that environmentally sound and appropriate technologies were as relevant in industrialized as in developing countries. Another appealed to industrialized countries not to take advantage of the less rigorous environmental regulations commonly in force in developing countries. Developing countries should be alert to that possibility, and where possible take appropriate action to enable them to select the technologies best suited to their environments.

(c) Industry and environment

242. General appreciation was expressed for the objectives, strategies, report and work plan of the industry and environment subarea. Delegations from both industrialized and developing countries confirmed their support for the consultative process on environmental aspects of specific industries, while it was also stated that the programme should concentrate on policy guidance and influencing decision-makers in industrializing countries. One delegation stressed the problem of technology transfer which arose in connexion with environment and industrialization, recalled difficulties encountered by developing countries in that field, and suggested that UNEP give more attention to the issue, in particular by strengthening the Industry and Environment Office.

243. Several delegations noted the importance of OECD, ECE and subregional European organizations in the field of industry and environment, and one suggested that UNEP's role in the motor vehicle area should focus on dissemination of information available to those organizations. Two delegations said that UNEP should support the ECE high-level meeting on environment, while another felt that the catalytic role of UNEP precluded continued support for the activities on the meeting's agenda.

244. Many delegations felt that additional efforts should be made to disseminate information on the results of the consultative process, using publications, bulletins, and the computerized information system operated with UNESCO and soon, it was expected, with other agencies, particularly UNIDO, although one cautioned against the development of a large information delivery system which would duplicate other services. The project on publication of methodologies for industrial environmental impact assessment, and of environmental criteria for industrial siting followed by regional seminars to test the methodologies and criteria, was specially noted. One delegation said that industrial plants of large size could sometimes be less environmentally harmful than a group of smaller plants, and that a national cost-benefit approach was necessary for proper siting.

245. The progress made towards the establishment of a co-ordinated programme of action by the United Nations system for improvement of the working environment was noted, and the practice of involving workers in decision-making on matters related to the environment supported.

246. The observer from the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) stressed the necessity of co-operation between Governments, industry and scientists for environmental enhancement. ICC was preparing a study on cost-benefit analysis of environmental measures and had taken the initiative in setting up an East-West

conference to be held in the Soviet Union in September 1979. Its special committee on the environment would be transformed into a full commission, grouping members from 54 countries. The goals of the environment programme could not be achieved without participation of industry.

247. At the conclusion of its debate on environment and development, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council draft decisions 14/ on environment and development, sponsored by the delegations of Algeria, Benin, Egypt, Gabon, Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Senegal, Tunisia and the United Republic of Cameroon, and cost-benefit analysis, sponsored by the delegations of Bangladesh, China, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The Committee also recommended for adoption by the Council amendments proposed by the delegations of Canada and Sweden to the objectives and strategies for environment and development, including ecodevelopment and use of natural resources, and agreed to include its additional recommendations regarding environment and development in the general draft decision on programme matters (see para. 314 below).

248. The secretariat indicated that the second of the two decisions recommended by the Committee could be implemented within available financial resources.

4. Oceans

249. The objectives, strategies and activities in the three subareas under oceans were generally supported, and achievements under the Mediterranean programme were specially commended. One delegation, however, noted that emphasis on specific regions should not limit co-operation in global activities.

250. Several delegations noted the usefulness of even the moderately funded programme on global marine pollution, and some urged international co-operative programmes to promote the effective use of existing national capabilities in that field. The significant role of oil pollution from maritime activities was recognized, while one delegation drew attention to the need for preventive measures and international conventions and regulations in that respect. The paramount importance of land-based pollution contributing directly or through rivers to ocean pollution was stressed by several delegations, which urged substantively increased remedial action by the responsible countries. Several delegations noted the substantive work undertaken by IMCO and other specialized agencies in the field of oceans, and advocated their close co-operation with UNEP. Some delegations, while acknowledging the valuable collaboration with the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP), urged wider use of national expertise and information sources.

251. Several delegations emphasized the need for unrestricted exchange of data through the World Data Centre system, and improved information flow and feedback among the different marine pollution programmes, such as those of GEMS and GESAMP. The ongoing dialogue between UNEP and the Working Committee of the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) on International Organization Data Exchange was noted in that connexion.

14/ Ibid., decisions 7/7 A and B.

252. One delegation, while recognizing the need for systematic open ocean monitoring, emphasized the technical and financial problems involved, and called on GEMS to investigate appropriate methods, possibly including remote sensing techniques.

253. The efforts undertaken with respect to living marine resources were generally acknowledged. One delegation attributed the decline of fishery resources more to irrational action by coastal States than to pollution, while others emphasized that those States were responsible, in consultation with international scientific bodies, for formulation and implementation of measures to manage and preserve such resources. One delegation, supported by another, proposed assistance in terms of research facilities, expertise and training in order to assess existing resources, in particular of marine national parks, and study the effect of tourism, and welcomed the planned scientific workshop for tropical African seas. While one delegation, supported by another, warned that reference to whaling in the problems addressed could be misleading since the situation had significantly improved, according to the scientific committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), another announced its Government's intention to prohibit whaling within the national fishing zone and to prohibit the import of whale products as of 1981.

254. Several delegations recognized the successful implementation of the regional seas programme and urged its extension to other regions, citing the Mediterranean and Kuwait action plans, and in particular the cost-sharing scheme for the former, as valuable models; one hoped the cost-sharing scheme would accelerate implementation and called upon other United Nations bodies to respond favourably to it. One delegation, supported by another, requested that UNEP give assistance to developing countries participating in the regional seas programme, in view of their weak scientific capacity, so that they would be able to combat land-based pollution effectively.

255. Some delegations endorsed the recent effort to develop an action plan for the East Asian seas on a subregional basis, while others urged expansion of participation to include countries other than the members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), with corresponding adjustment of the plan. One delegation expressed concern over the slow progress achieved in the Caribbean region, questioned the feasibility of finalizing a regional action plan by 1980, and recommended close collaboration with the IOC Regional Association for the Caribbean, while several delegations urged that action be initiated in the South West Pacific and the South Atlantic, possibly in collaboration with WESTPAC. Other delegations stated their concern at the slow progress in the Gulf of Guinea and stressed that the programme should be intensified. Some delegations questioned the rationale for dealing with the Caribbean and South West Pacific regions under environmental management instead of under the regional seas programme and urged that the situation be further considered.

256. Several delegations questioned the proposed increase in indicative allocation figures for 1980-1981 and asked how they were to be apportioned among the three subject areas and among activities, while one delegation supported the increase.

257. Some delegations indicated that lack of supporting material relating to proposed changes in these and other allocation figures made it impossible to reach a full judgement on the balance of the programme.

258. The representative of UNESCO indicated that efforts would be made for better dissemination of the results of the work of GESAMP. He stressed that the valuable information accumulated by the various specialized agencies, including IOC, as well as their networks of contacts, should be used in the action plans for the various regional seas, and acknowledged the efforts made by the secretariat in that respect. Finally, he underlined the need to expand the concept of biosphere reserves to coastal and marine areas.

259. The observer from IMCO stated that at the global level IMCO had given unremitting attention to the problem of safety at sea and marine pollution. Global safety standards for ship construction, ship operation, prevention of pollution and training of personnel had been evolved and incorporated in conventions, recommendations, codes or practice, etc. At present there were 30 conventions and similar instruments developed by IMCO and for which it performed depositary or secretariat functions. Of those, 10 conventions and other instruments related directly to the prevention and control of marine pollution. Twelve conventions relating to marine safety also contributed to the prevention of accidental pollution. He also expressed the readiness of IMCO to undertake every effort towards successful implementation of the UNEP regional seas programme.

260. At the conclusion of its debate on oceans, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council a draft decision 15/ on the Mediterranean action plan sponsored by the Mediterranean coastal States involved in the action plan and represented at the Council session.

261. The Deputy Executive Director indicated that the implementation of the decision entailed no additional financial implications to the Environment Fund. The delegation of Canada requested that the Deputy Executive Director's statement be reproduced in extenso. 16/

5. Energy

262. Most delegations commended the activities of UNEP in the area of energy and endorsed the urgent needs and the proposed new objectives and strategies. Two delegations proposed certain changes in the objectives and strategies.

263. Several delegations stressed the importance of the in-depth reviews of the environmental impacts of energy production, transport and use. Some indicated that due attention should be paid to the effects of emissions on atmosphere and other ecosystems. One delegation emphasized the need for co-operation with WHO on health effects of emissions.

264. Many delegations emphasized the importance of energy conservation measures. One delegation pointed out the usefulness of promoting energy conservation and recovery in industry, and another proposed the convening of an expert group on pollution aspects of energy production and use.

265. Most delegations stressed the importance of developing renewable sources of energy, especially in rural areas in developing countries, and several delegations

15/ Ibid., decision 7/8.

16/ For the text of the statement, see annex II below.

urged UNEP assistance through feasibility studies or through pilot experiments. Two delegations supported the concept of rural energy centres, while one cautioned against overlapping with several activities being undertaken by United Nations agencies. Several delegations emphasized the importance of biogas production from agricultural waste and other organic material, particularly in rural areas. One delegation stressed that biogas was not only an alternative source of energy but also an important instrument for agricultural development and environmentally sound development in general. One delegation cautioned that not all renewable sources of energy were by definition environmentally sound, and advocated the use of all types of energy in an environmentally sound manner.

266. Some delegations emphasized the importance of the contribution UNEP could make to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy to be convened in 1981 in terms of highlighting the environmental aspects of various energy sources.

267. Two delegations were of the opinion that within the United Nations system all aspects of nuclear energy should, in the first place, be dealt with by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Conversely, another delegation urged UNEP to call upon the broadest possible range of expertise available, even in controversial energy fields. The representative of the Environmental Liaison Centre noted that several non-governmental organizations had expressed the view that IAEA should not be entrusted with the assessment of the environmental impact and the future of nuclear power as a major source of energy, as it was a promoter of nuclear resources. He supported the statement of the representative of The Friends of the Earth, who pointed out that dangerous and toxic materials related to nuclear power technology were difficult to control and advocated the inclusion of nuclear wastes in the lists of toxic chemicals.

268. Most delegations emphasized the importance of dissemination of information on environmental aspects of production and use of energy, while one delegation suggested the production of an energy bulletin or newsletter. One delegation proposed a substantial increase in the allocation for energy and separation into two budget lines covering development of energy resources and environmental aspects.

269. At the conclusion of its debate on energy, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council a draft decision 17/ sponsored by the delegations of the African States represented at the Council session, and agreed to include its additional recommendations regarding energy in the general draft decision on programme matters (see para. 314 below).

270. The secretariat indicated that the implementation of the decision on energy would entail no financial implications for the Environment Fund.

6. Natural disasters

271. The revised objectives, strategies and goal No. 15 proposed by the Executive Director were supported, and it was felt that UNEP should step up its activities if the goal was to be achieved by 1982.

17/ For the text of the decision as adopted by the Council, see annex 1 below, decision 7/9.

272. There was general agreement that the activities of UNEP should be directed towards improving early warning systems, and it was noted that the experience gained from early warning of tropical cyclones could be useful in that respect.

273. The view was expressed that the Interagency Memorandum of Understanding (UNEP/GC/INFORMATION/6/Add.2 and Corr.1) constituted a viable framework for co-operation between agencies.

274. It was also stated that the role of UNEP in the field of natural disasters should remain modest, and that UNEP should not deal with the provision of technical assistance for relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation, which was the responsibility of other agencies such as the Red Cross, UNDRO, UNDP, etc.

275. The Committee agreed to include its recommendations regarding natural disasters in the general decision on programme matters (see para. 314 below).

D. Supporting measures

276. There was general agreement that the supporting measures constituted a key element in the solution of environmental problems, and hence deserved high priority.

1. Environmental education

277. Delegations generally supported the objectives, strategies and activities. One, however, felt that the work plan was somewhat overambitious and too general; another proposed that it should place greater emphasis on measures for popularization of environmental concerns, including more publications in different languages. A number of delegations stressed the importance of audio-visual materials in education on environmental matters, especially in rural areas. One stressed the need for environmental education at the non-formal level, another at the decision-making level.

278. Some delegations expressed concern that the budgetary provision did not seem to reflect the relative importance of environmental education, and others called for quicker implementation of the Tbilisi recommendations at the governmental level. It was also noted that the ideas developed at Tbilisi were permeating the United Nations system, an encouraging sign of the catalytic role of UNEP. One delegation said that the interest of developed countries in environmental education should not be overlooked in catering for the needs of developing countries.

279. Two delegations requested that the proposed country missions under the UNESCO-UNEP international environmental education programme should be undertaken in 1980 instead of 1982. One delegation stressed that it was important for UNEP to contribute to post-graduate classes and training courses on physical planning in certain developing countries. Another delegation stated that its Government would be glad to act as host to the international seminar on environmental education: Interdisciplinary approaches, to be organized in 1980 by UNESCO and UNEP.

280. Several delegations offered facilities and assistance through bilateral arrangements, especially at the post-graduate level.

281. The representative of UNESCO stressed the increasing attention his organization was giving to environmental education. He expressed the hope that the budgetary reduction for supporting measures would affect neither environmental education nor environmental training. He stressed the importance of effective thematic joint programming and continued support to general environmental education as well as to environmental education of engineers.

2. Environmental training

282. The objectives, strategies and work plans for environmental training were generally supported: one delegation proposed highest priority for objective (i) and found the single activity under objective (ii) rather inadequate. Some delegations, commending the co-operation of UNEP with CIFCA, urged that it be continued beyond 1980 and proposed the establishment of a network of complementary institutes in Latin America.

283. It was generally recognized that training components were spread throughout the activities of UNEP in environmental management and environmental assessment, and one delegation specifically mentioned the UNEP-supported programme on water management. Some delegations appealed for the strengthening of regional training institutions and centres and the setting up of others, while one urged the use of existing facilities rather than the establishment of new ones.

284. Some delegations requested that UNEP and UNESCO should provide support to member States to enable them to expand their programmes for the education and training of engineers, economists, specialists in humanities and decision-makers in environmental matters. Others advocated training arrangements and facilities in developing countries for the introduction of environmental education and its extension to all levels.

285. The representative of UNESCO stressed the importance, particularly for developing countries, of training not only of environmental specialists but also personnel for integrated resources management.

3. Information

286. It was generally felt that information was a crucial part of UNEP's activities, and the objectives, strategies and activities were supported. Some delegations referred to the role played by the mass media and non-governmental organizations in creating the awareness of environmental problems which had led to the holding of the Stockholm Conference and the creation of UNEP.

287. Referring to the current discussions concerning the new international economic order, a number of delegations stressed the need for UNEP to catalyse and co-ordinate the flow of environmental information in the world, and to act as the main stimulator of environmental awareness at all levels of society.

288. Many delegations welcomed the Executive Director's efforts to regionalize the information work of UNEP, expressed appreciation for the appointment of regional information officers, and referred to examples of co-operation which were taking place at the regional level. They felt that information must be tailored

to the situation and needs of the regions, and therefore welcomed the co-operation of UNEP with the regional information centres such as the Press Foundation of Asia, the Press Institute of India, the Press Institute of Bangladesh and Inter-Press Service.

289. Several delegations called for a greater two-way flow of information, with a continuous feedback. One delegation called for evaluations of various aspects of the information activities, and another requested that the information multipliers project, which was set up to identify organizations and individuals who could assist in promoting environmental awareness, be put into effect as soon as possible.

290. A number of delegations stressed that UNEP should also regionalize its activities in the areas of audio-visual materials and publications. Several stressed the importance of radio, as the main channel of communication within their countries, called for the setting up of a regional network of broadcasting institutions along the lines of URTNA, and requested UNEP to provide training for broadcasters. Some delegations called for the greater use of environmental experts from developing countries to write books and pamphlets of relevance to developing countries, and for use of publication institutions in developing countries.

291. Many delegations considered World Environment Day to be instrumental in stimulating continued awareness of environmental challenges, and hoped that UNEP would step up the related publicity campaign by producing more information materials for use by Governments in their national programmes.

292. One delegation referred to the success achieved by UNEP in communicating environmental issues to developing countries and urged continued effort to inform countries on the major global environmental challenges.

293. The representative of UNESCO urged that a rigorous approach be maintained in the selection of information disseminated to the mass media.

294. In its debate on information, the Committee also considered relations with non-governmental organizations, under agenda item 12, in which connexion it had before it document UNEP/GC.7/18. Delegations generally expressed appreciation for the good working relationships which UNEP had established with non-governmental organizations and called for further development and strengthening of that co-operation.

295. Many delegations viewed non-governmental organizations as a crucial means of bringing environmental awareness and action down to the local levels of society. One referred to the work being undertaken by such organizations as IUCN and WWF on the World Conservation Strategy, while another stressed that non-governmental organizations would be a very cost-effective source of expertise for both UNEP and Governments, and called on UNEP not only to involve those organizations in information activities but to utilize them in expert panels and projects.

296. The representative of the Environment Liaison Centre stated that non-governmental organizations were active at all levels and sectors of society. Many new NGO groups in developing countries were making contributions to finding solutions to environmental problems. He thanked UNEP for supporting a number of NGO activities, including the World Youth Congress on Food and Development recently held at Cairo.

4. Technical assistance

297. The objectives, strategies and activities were supported in general terms and several delegations urged that UNEP play a greater role in the provision of technical assistance. One delegation asked for information on the specific plans made by UNEP for technical assistance, and their cost, while another requested additional information on the nature of advisory teams in technical assistance and on the representation of other agencies in the environmental co-ordination units. One delegation suggested that so far as the clearing-house idea was concerned, UNEP should only play an informal role, and should avoid taking up the role of an aid-broker. Another noted that UNEP only had a referral responsibility in that connexion.

298. The Assistant Executive Director, Bureau of the Programme, reiterated that technical assistance was not a primary responsibility of UNEP. Experience so far with the clearing-house idea had not been successful, partly because donor countries apparently preferred bilateral contacts and usually required the processing of technical assistance requests to be handled directly. It might be necessary to consider eliminating the activity should the present difficulties persist after further efforts.

299. At the conclusion of its debate on supporting measures, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council draft decisions 18/ on CIFCA and on promotion of environmental education and training, sponsored by the delegations of Latin America States represented at the Council session and of Spain, as well as a draft decision 19/ on relations with non-governmental organizations. The Committee also considered, but did not approve, a draft decision submitted by the delegation of Uruguay on information on the implementation of Governing Council decisions.

E. Environmental management including environmental law

1. Environmental law

300. UNEP's work in the field of environmental law was generally supported. Delegations urged that it be continued and increased to meet the specific needs of countries. Many commended the secretariat for the work done on the register of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment.

301. With regard to shared natural resources, delegations generally shared the Executive Director's concern about the fact that the General Assembly at its thirty-third session had not succeeded in adopting the principles prepared by the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Natural Resources Shared by Two or More States. A number of them expressed the hope that, at its thirty-fourth session, the Assembly would be able to do so and recommend to Governments that they respect the principles. Some delegations, however, stated that it might be premature to take any specific decision in that respect while consultations were going on with Governments on the principles.

18/ Ibid., decisions 7/10 A and B.

19/ Ibid., decision 7/15.

302. Delegations noted the report of the Executive Director on the work of the Group of Experts on Environmental Law. Some of them expressed appreciation of the progress made at the third session of the Group, while others questioned the progress made so far, and stressed that the Group should focus its deliberations on legal aspects of liability and compensation for environmental damage, while others doubted the usefulness of such an exercise and said that should only be done, if at all, after the Group had completed its work on the other issues, as decided at the last meeting of the Group. In their view technical issues should be considered and settled prior to the meetings of the Group. Another delegation stated that the Group was competent to deal with technical aspects, and that specialists could attend the meetings. Other delegations said that the problem involved difficult issues, and in any event preventive measures deserved prior attention over remedial. Many delegations suggested that the Group should meet more frequently and for longer periods in order to accelerate its work. Some delegations were, however, of the view that development of legal principles in the field of environmental law was necessarily a slow process. Others suggested that the work of the Group should result in guidelines or recommendations. Some delegations suggested that in order to avoid duplication the UNEP secretariat should keep the Group apprised of the work done by the International Juridical Organization on the Mediterranean.

303. Some delegations said that there was no need at present for a high-level meeting to consider the question of accelerating its work. Others, however, suggested that the level and quality of participation in the Working Group be improved, taking into account equitable regional representation. Referring to the current work of the Group, some delegations emphasized the importance of the subject of environmental degradation from offshore mining and drilling. They supported the recommendations of and action by the Governing Council suggested by the Executive Director, as contained in document UNEP/GC.7/7/Add.1. They also stated that the impression that the work of the Working Group had been slow was unfounded, in view of the complexity of the subject, the differences in the political and economic interests of the participants and the fact that some of them came from closed or semi-enclosed sea areas, while others came from open sea areas. With regard to the future programme of work of the Group, some delegations suggested that it should select priority subject areas in the field of international environmental law, taking into account the subjects mentioned in goal 20 for 1982, the list it had proposed and the topics recommended by the Executive Director to the Group at its first session. Some suggested the inclusion in the list of the development of international procedures for impact assessment. Others were of the view that new topics should be selected only after the Group had completed its present study. Many delegations emphasized that it was important to have topics which lend themselves to concrete solutions of specific problems, and that greater emphasis should be put on regional and subregional aspects of the problems.

304. A number of delegations supported the recommendation of the Working Group, at its last session, that another meeting of the Group be held in September 1979 to enable it to complete its work on part I, and to start its work on parts II and III of its work programme.

305. One delegation suggested that environmental law is still in its early stages of development, and urgent environmental problems were therefore likely to be addressed by traditional law, at least in the short term. In the long term, UNEP should support development of the theoretical aspects of environmental law, without which it might be impossible to formulate legislation on specific environmental problems.

306. Some delegations felt that environmental law should be treated as a separate entity in UNEP's work programme. The secretariat reiterated the importance of considering environmental law as a tool for sound environmental management.

2. Environmental management

307. Several delegations reiterated their view that the programme for the Caribbean and the South-West Pacific should be dealt with under regional seas rather than environmental management.

308. Several delegations doubted whether the activities could currently be seen as contributing to the fulfilment of the objectives of environmental management, since the action plan for the two areas would not be approved until 1980. Two delegations, however, supported the continued emphasis given to the South-West Pacific region in the work plan. Another asked why the programme document failed to indicate any achievement in the Mediterranean under environmental management, since the Action Plan had been in existence for several years.

309. Several delegations noted that the present activities in environmental management concentrated on water-related management problems, and indicated the need to broaden the scope of the problems addressed to include other issues.

310. One delegation said that activities should be grouped in accordance with the three functional tasks assigned to UNEP by the Stockholm Conference, i.e. environmental assessment, environmental management and supporting measures, so as to enable the Council to evaluate the achievements of UNEP effectively. The delegation also stated that the progress UNEP might make in discharging its basic task would be judged on two aspects, i.e. how well environmental assessment on critical issues was provided and what the contribution of the assessment was to sound environmental management. The secretariat reiterated the difficulty of separating activities into three functional tasks, especially at the level of programme matters.

311. At the conclusion of its debate on environmental management including environmental law, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council a draft decision 20/ sponsored by the delegations of Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, Greece, the Netherlands, Sweden and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The draft decision was amended in the Committee by the delegation of Colombia.

312. The secretariat indicated that the cost of only one additional meeting under each of paragraphs 2 (c) and 2 (d) of the decision could be absorbed within available financial resources.

313. The representative of Brazil indicated that his delegation could not associate itself with the proposal contained in operative paragraph 1 of the draft decision, and would therefore not join the possible consensus on the draft, in accordance with the position it had taken on the question on previous occasions. The representative of India reserved his delegation's right to comment on the decision in plenary session.

20/ Ibid., decision 7/11.

F. General action regarding programme activities

314. At the conclusion of its work, Sessional Committee I recommended for adoption by the Governing Council a draft decision, suggested by the Chairman, on programme matters, 21/ incorporating the revised strategies for soils and objectives and strategies for environment and development, including ecodevelopment and use of natural resources approved by the Committee (see paras. 228 and 247 above).

315. The Committee also informed Sessional Committee II of its recommendations regarding the revised apportionment of Fund allocations to the various budget lines for 1979. The recommended figures are incorporated in Governing Council decision 7/14 C, paragraph 5.

Action by the Governing Council

316. For the action by the Governing Council on the draft decisions recommended by Sessional Committee I, see chapter X below, paragraphs 430-433.

21/ Ibid., decision 7/3.

CHAPTER V

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND ARID AND SEMI-ARID LANDS ECOSYSTEMS

317. Agenda item 8 was considered by Sessional Committee I in connexion with arid and semi-arid lands ecosystems. The Committee had before it documents UNEP/GC.7/10 and Add.1, as well as the relevant parts of document UNEP/GC.7/7 and Corr.1 and 3.

318. The Executive Director reviewed the progress achieved in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification since the sixth session of the Governing Council, including the establishment of an expanded United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the formation of the Inter-agency working group on desertification, which reported to ACC, the work of the Consultative Group on Desertification Control, which was the main vehicle for mobilizing funds, the opening of the special account by the Secretary-General as at 15 March 1979, and the study on additional measures and means of financing the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, which the Secretary-General had sent to Governments for comments. The most pressing issue was that of financing and he hoped for a positive response from member Governments in that regard. The Council was also required to give guidance on the co-ordination and follow-up of the Plan of Action, and report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session on the implementation of the Plan in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

319. Delegations generally supported the Executive Director's initiatives and suggested action in the subject area, and expressed their Governments' continued support for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. One delegation requested the Executive Director to inform the Governing Council at its eighth session of the anti-desertification action planned by UNEP over the next few years. The importance of the role of UNEP in controlling desertification, whose effects, because of its consequences for vital sectors such as global food production, extended beyond countries directly affected, was generally emphasized.

320. Many delegations noted with satisfaction the establishment of the Desertification Unit within the UNEP secretariat, which it was felt would ensure an effective and comprehensive thrust to UNEP activities in the area. One delegation suggested that the Unit should concentrate on helping countries develop anti-desertification measures, and selecting relevant projects for financing by the Consultative Group, while another said it should focus on provision of consultancy services and elaboration of models for anti-desertification action.

321. Most delegations welcomed the collaborative arrangements established between UNEP and UNDP with respect to UNSO. Two delegations requested clarification and justification for the staff resources described in the Executive Director's report. Several delegations noted with satisfaction the activities already undertaken by UNSO in the Sahelian region. A few called for delineation of the respective roles of UNSO and the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought

Control in the Sahel (CILSS). One delegation doubted whether UNSO would be an effective instrument for implementing the Plan of Action, although further clarification of its mandate and its relationship to CILSS would undoubtedly improve the situation; above all, UNSO should avoid duplicating the effort of others in the Sudano-Sahelian region, especially in regard to mobilization of resources. The same delegation proposed that the seat of UNSO should be moved from New York to Ougadougou.

322. Several delegations welcomed the establishment of the Consultative Group on Desertification Control. Some suggested that it should include broad policy issues in its work, rather than concentrate only on specific projects. One delegation proposed that its Government, in view of its first-hand knowledge of desertification problems, be included as a permanent member of the Consultative Group. According to one delegation, the Group should engage not only in mobilizing resources, but also in substantive discussions on all appropriate projects.

323. Several delegations regretted the fact that the Executive Director's report failed to record the desertification-related activities carried out by their Governments, and some said that they would provide additional information for inclusion in future documentation.

324. Many delegations were of the opinion that the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification should, in the first instance, be financed from existing multilateral and bilateral sources. One delegation expressed support for the Executive Director's efforts to resolve the financial problems, as outlined in his report. Several delegations questioned the rationale for the proposed decrease in the budget line for arid and semi-arid lands, including desertification, for the biennium 1980-1981, while one expressed regret at the decrease. One delegation stressed that UNEP should co-operate with Governments in the implementation of projects for the integrated management of arid and semi-arid lands ecosystems. A number of delegations underlined the importance of bilateral, subregional and regional collaboration in combating desertification. Several delegations expressed regret at the slow progress made on processing and implementing the transnational projects, and one requested that the inputs of UNEP into those projects be more clearly defined. Another delegation regretted the delay in establishing the planned regional monitoring centre in Teheran.

325. Several delegations pointed out the important relationship between water management, soil erosion and degradation, and desertification, which UNEP should take into consideration in elaborating anti-desertification projects. One delegation said that UNEP should act as a catalyst with respect to international soil protection and productivity efforts. Others underlined the importance of the agro-industrial development of arid and semi-arid lands as an instrument for combating desertification. Another delegation stressed the need to give appropriate attention to socio-economic and political problems related to desertification. Another advocated greater attention to the problems of firewood and substitutes, and expressed interest in the trees programme. Another delegation announced the initiation, in collaboration with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, of a study on the social aspects of desertification, from which results were expected by the end of 1979.

326. A number of delegations underlined the importance of research, the development and transfer of appropriate technology and training, especially mass

education, as instruments for desertification control. One delegation indicated the readiness of its Government to give favourable consideration to hosting a regional training centre, with the support of UNEP, in conjunction with the transnational project on desertification monitoring in South-West Asia. Two delegations invited UNEP to continue support for the proposed North African Green Belt project. Several delegations stressed the importance of interagency co-operation and co-ordination of anti-desertification activities in the context of ACC, and expressed interest in the development of the phased plan for implementation of the Plan of Action. Another proposed that the joint UNEP/UNESCO project on arid lands (IPAL) should be extended beyond its expiry date in 1982, while another proposed the establishment of a regional centre to combat desertification in the Mediterranean region.

327. Representatives of the specialized agencies generally expressed their satisfaction with the co-operative arrangements existing between UNEP and their respective organizations. The representative of OAU informed the Committee that OAU was finalizing plans for an inter-African project to combat desertification in the decade 1980-1990, in which the participation of UNEP would be welcomed.

328. The representative of UNSO expressed his gratitude to UNEP for its co-operation with UNDP in the operations of UNSO, which were showing very satisfactory progress. The collaboration between UNSO and CILSS had proved very effective.

329. One delegation said it was fully satisfied after the statement by the representative of UNSO, feeling that it had dispelled any anxiety regarding the co-ordination of desertification control activities in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

330. At the conclusion of its debate on arid and semi-arid lands, including desertification, Sessional Committee I recommended for adoption by the Governing Council a draft decision 22/ on the special account to combat desertification, sponsored by the delegations of Algeria, Bangladesh, Botswana, Egypt, India, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia, the United Republic of Cameroon and the United Republic of Tanzania, and draft decisions 23/ on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification with special reference to the Sudano-Sahelian region and in the African region, sponsored by the African States represented at the Council session.

331. The secretariat indicated that the implementation of the first decision would entail no additional financial implications, while the second and third could be implemented within available resources.

332. The delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland indicated its Government's view that the financing of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification should continue to be assured through existing bilateral and multilateral aid channels. The delegations of France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Japan, the Netherlands and the United States of America endorsed that view. The representative of Norway reserved his delegation's position.

Action by the Governing Council

333. For the action by the Governing Council on the above draft decisions, see chapter X below, paragraph 430.

22/ Ibid., decision 7/13 A.

23/ Ibid., decisions 7/13 B and C.

CHAPTER VI

ISSUES RELATING TO HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ACTIVITIES

334. In considering agenda item 9 at the 2nd and 8th meetings of the session, on 23 and 27 April 1979, the Council had before it a report on the joint meetings of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements with the Executive Director of UNEP and the Bureau of the Governing Council (UNEP/GC.7/11).

335. The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), introducing the item, said that the prime purpose of the joint meeting, held in March 1979, had been to ensure that there was no overlapping or duplication of activities carried out by the two organizations. The meeting had reached full agreement on the complementarity of the two programmes and on the areas where joint projects would be appropriate.

336. He stated that the Executive Director of UNEP had addressed the second session of the Commission on Human Settlements on those issues which he felt crucially affected the environmental aspects of human settlements: pressures of population growth and urban expansion, inadequacy of analytical tools for dealing with human settlements problems, and the growing waste and pollution problems in human settlements. The Centre gave full weight to those concerns and believed it could collaborate fully with UNEP in dealing with them.

337. The 1980-1981 work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements approved by the Commission at its second session, reflected the importance of some broad human settlements and environmental issues in the current context of global population growth, socio-economic development and natural resources constraints. It was structured around the six areas of concern identified by the Habitat Conference for priority action and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly: (a) settlement policies and strategies; (b) settlement planning, including area development for tourism; (c) shelter, infrastructure and services; (d) land; (e) institutions and management; and (f) public participation. The Commission had assigned top priority to shelter, infrastructure and services, followed by settlement planning and institutional and management requirements, and had asked the Centre to give emphasis to technical co-operation activities, supported by research, training and dissemination of information.

338. As an executing agency for human settlements projects, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements was already implementing 75 projects in about 40 different countries, and an equal number of small-scale projects primarily aimed at providing training assistance or individual expert assistance, with financing mainly from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), together with some trust fund contributions from donor Governments. At its second session, the Commission had called on developing countries to allocate a larger portion of UNDP country-programme funds to human settlements activities and requested developed countries to contribute to bilateral or multilateral trust funds through the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.

339. Human settlements goals and programmes were inextricably linked to national goals and programmes for economic development, social improvement and resource utilization and conservation. The failure to optimize resource distribution had resulted in gross inequities in living standards in many developing countries, and in shortfalls which retarded over-all economic growth, and, hence, social improvement. The most glaring manifestations of that failure were the many problems which plagued the human settlements of developing countries. The experience of the Centre made it clear that those problems could not be solved by unco-ordinated sectoral programmes. The simplistic response of coercing people into leaving cities could have disastrous results. Moreover, developing countries did not have the transportation, infrastructure or communication networks, or the pools of mobile skilled labour, to sustain widely dispersed industries. Sectoral planners had thus been tempted to reject technological modernization and return to the pre-industrial rural and village lifestyle. However, there was an inexorable trend towards greater urbanization; and integrated approach to the development of rural areas, rather than mere exhortation to return to rural areas, was therefore required. While there were undeniably problems involved in industrializing developing societies, the difficulties which technological modernization created in addition to its benefits could none the less be minimized.

340. So far, however, few developing countries had taken the comprehensive long-term approach needed for an orderly transition to a technologically advanced society. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements had an important role to play in devising suitable strategies and approaches for bringing about an environmentally sound transition based on each country's living patterns, cultural values, resources and skills. The new awareness of the constraints on development resources had helped generate support for the integration of environmental and human settlements requirements into the development process. Once the human environment, both ecological and cultural, had been damaged, it was difficult, perhaps impossible, to reverse the process. A resource and energy conserving approach to the design, construction and management of human settlements was therefore needed, linked with public participation both in development and in the related decision-making process. With grass-roots participation in planning, environmental considerations would certainly begin to receive the attention they deserved.

341. Given the fact that the ultimate goal of both UNEP and the Centre was to improve the living conditions of people, the Executive Director of the Centre looked forward to a close co-operation between the two organizations, in the belief that an increased allocation of resources to human settlements was the best insurance policy for the protection of the environment.

342. Many delegations welcomed the co-operation between UNEP and the Centre, which they felt was off to a good start. The first joint meeting of the Bureaux and the Executive Directors had produced very satisfactory results, in that an understanding had been reached on working relationships between the two organizations, based on mutual co-operation and collaboration rather than rigid demarcation lines between them.

343. A number of delegations commented on the extremely serious problems which many developing countries were experiencing in the area of human settlements, and it was suggested that UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements identify new projects in the area of environmental health and human settlements to alleviate those problems.

344. With regard to the role of UNEP in human settlements, it was generally felt that the revised objectives and strategies reflected correctly the reorientation of the UNEP programme in that field in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977.

345. One speaker stated that the training programme for the planning and management of human settlements should be established by Habitat and UNESCO. Another considered that UNEP should include in its human settlements programme the question of energy-saving devices and environmentally sound and appropriate technologies. It was also stated that environmental degradation in human settlements resulted from unjust racial, social and economic systems, practices and institutions.

Action by the Governing Council

346. The decision on programme policy and implementation (decision 7/1, sect. 11, para. 11) included the action by the Governing Council in respect of co-ordination with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlement.

CHAPTER VII

THE ENVIRONMENT FUND

347. Agenda item 10 was assigned to Sessional Committee II for consideration. For an account of the organization of the Committee's work, see paragraph 16 above.

A. Implementation of the Fund programme for 1978 and Fund programme activities

348. In considering agenda item 10 (a), the Committee had before it documents UNEP/GC.7/12 and Add.1 and UNEP/GC.7/13 and Corr.1.

1. Implementation of the Fund programme

349. The Assistant Executive Director, Bureau of the Environment Fund and Administration, introduced the Executive Director's note on the implementation of the Fund programme in 1978 and the first quarter of 1979 (UNEP/GC.7/12 and Add.1).

350. A few delegations noted that the Executive Director's adjustment authority of 20 per cent between the two-digit budget lines had been exceeded in two cases - line 03, Support, which had been increased by 25 per cent, and line 07, Energy, which had been increased by 26.3 per cent - and requested the secretariat to explain on what authority that had been done. One delegation questioned the advisability of incorporating human settlements and human health in one budget line, as that did not reflect the actual activity and priority in each area.

351. One delegation welcomed the considerable narrowing of the gap between appropriations, commitments and expenditures, which, together with the ratio between programme and programme support costs, were the main criteria for assessing the performance of the Fund. Regarding the gap between commitments and expenditures, the delegations felt that annual slippage should not exceed 10 per cent if commitments were properly managed from the outset. Furthermore, the proportion of new commitments in any given year - some 15 per cent in 1978, and some 12 per cent in 1979 - seemed excessively low; to ensure flexibility in dealing with emerging environmental problems, the secretariat should set the target of having new commitments form 25 per cent of its activities each year. Regarding the catalytic role of the Fund, consideration should be given, in view of the apparently increasing dependence of co-operating agencies on the Fund, to establishing a rule that UNEP should not fund more than 50 per cent of the cost of any major co-operative project for an extended period of time without the prior consent of the Governing Council.

352. Several delegations expressed concern at the low percentage of projects undertaken in developing regions, and urged that more activities be carried out in those regions: in view of the great needs of developing countries, minor defects in the formulation of project requests should not automatically disqualify them from consideration. One delegation suggested that the secretariat might provide guidance in project formulation.

353. Some delegations expressed concern at classification of Fund-supported projects as national, regional or global, and one requested that future documentation incorporate the relevant information for all new projects.

354. The Assistant Executive Director, Bureau of the Environment Fund and Administration, recalled that UNEP had an essentially global mandate; its global programmes were of benefit to all countries and all regions, and it was difficult to quantify that benefit on a country or regional basis. In response to the question regarding the Executive Director's adjustment authority of 20 per cent between two-digit budget lines, he said that, in line with paragraph 5 of decision 6/13 D, the Executive Director had treated 1978 and 1979 as a single financial period; where Table 1 of document UNEP/GC.7/12 indicated that the Executive Director had exercised his discretion to vary the budget line allocations, it was within the 20 per cent authority based on the total appropriations for the budget lines, and the total appropriation of \$64 million was well within the appropriation of \$72 million for the biennium approved by the same decision.

355. At the conclusion of the debate on the subject, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Governing Council that it take note of the Executive Director's report on the implementation of the Fund programme in 1978 and Fund programme activities. 24/

2. Project and programme evaluation

356. The Deputy Assistant Executive Director, Bureau of the Environment Fund and Administration, introducing the Executive Director's note on project and programme evaluation (UNEP/GC.7/13 and Corr.1), said that evaluation was considered a highly important component of the UNEP programme both by the Governing Council and by the secretariat. Progress had been made in response to Governing Council decision 6/13 B, but some matters had taken more time to resolve than had been expected. One of those was the staffing of the evaluation unit: since recruitment of staff had only been recently effected, and because of the difficulties in arranging the logistics of specific evaluations, it had not been possible to conduct as many in-depth evaluations as had been originally anticipated. However, there had been an increased number of desk evaluations on completed projects, which together with other evaluation reports were published in Report to Governments. Programme evaluation, although raised in the Executive Director's note, extended beyond the competence of the evaluation unit and was linked with the system-wide medium-term environment programme. However, the unit contributed to programme evaluation through the preparation of sectoral analyses, as well as through certain in-depth evaluations.

357. Many delegations stated that the Executive Director's note responded well to Governing Council decision 6/13 B. Some felt, however, that the document was rather general in orientation and that methodology perhaps deserved more attention. Some delegations stated that methodology could evolve from actual experience, and suggested that in two years the secretariat might present a concrete example demonstrating the entire evaluation process, including feedback

24/ See annex I below, decision 7/14 A.

into the programme. One delegation suggested that a group of projects in the same area might be studied in order to determine their impact both within the UNEP programme and throughout the United Nations System. Two delegations stressed the relevance to UNEP of the Joint Inspection Unit report on programme evaluation, especially in terms of the methodology to be followed.

358. Several delegations noted the importance of pre-evaluation in terms of project selection and were glad to note that lessons learned from project evaluations were contributing in that respect. One delegation stated that UNEP should consider terminating on-going projects when an evaluation showed that the project was not contributing sufficiently to the programme and that resources might be better employed for a new activity.

359. Many delegations found that Report to Governments was a useful device for reporting on UNEP activities. The frank and critical nature of the "C" series on completed projects was particularly appreciated. One delegation requested that the "P" series on on-going projects be increased.

360. Some delegations emphasized the importance of utilizing local experts in project evaluation, because of their knowledge of conditions in their countries, and said that Governments should be consulted on selection of consultants. One delegation requested the list of consultants used by UNEP and stated that its Government had not been requested to provide candidates for the consultants roster.

361. The Deputy Assistant Executive Director stated that the Executive Director was aware of the limitations on current possibilities for meaningful programme evaluation. Nevertheless, some recent activities, for example the on-going evaluation of groups of projects, were making a useful contribution. UNEP was also examining the possibility of evaluating projects implemented by various operational methods. The Joint Inspection Unit was also collaborating with UNEP on an upcoming evaluation exercise.

362. The Deputy Assistant Executive Director recognized the desirability of utilizing local expertise. However, more consultants had been presented by developed than developing countries, which had led to an undesirable imbalance, not only in terms of evaluation consultants but of consultants in other areas as well. It was the task of the regional offices to obtain lists of consultants from all countries. It was not standard United Nations practice to provide names of consultants actually used to all Governments, but a roster, although incomplete, could be made available on request.

363. The feedback of evaluation results into project formulation was a difficult process. However, UNEP attached great importance to it, and would continue to use past experience in the formulation of new projects. UNEP would also, if necessary, discontinue poor projects, thereby releasing funds for new activities.

364. The Committee then noted the actions taken by the Executive Director in response to its decision 6/13 B and the information presented in the Executive Director's note. 25/

25/ Ibid.

B. Financial report and accounts for the biennium 1976-1977 ended 31 December 1977 and the report of the Board of Auditors; and financial report and interim accounts (unaudited) for the first year of the biennium 1978-1979 as at 31 December 1978

365. In discussing agenda item 10 (b), the Committee had before it documents UNEP/GC.7/L.1 and 2 and UNEP/GC.7/L.2 and Corr.1.

366. Introducing the item, the Assistant Executive Director, Bureau of the Environment Fund and Administration, noted that from 1980 onwards the reports and accounts of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation would be considered by the Commission on Human Settlements.

367. Several delegations requested the Executive Director to take the observations and recommendations of the Board of Auditors fully into account in the future management of the Environment Fund.

368. In relation to schedule 4 of document UNEP/GC.7/L.2, some delegations queried the basis on which consultants were recruited by UNEP and requested the secretariat to provide a list of the consultants used by UNEP, showing their geographical distribution. The secretariat offered to prepare such a list for interested Governments.

369. At the conclusion of its debate on the subject, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council a draft decision 26/ on the financial report and accounts.

C. Management of the Environment Fund and administrative and budgetary matters

1. Management of the Fund

370. In considering the first part of item 10 (c), the Committee had before it the Executive Director's note on the management of the Environment Fund (UNEP/GC.7/14/Rev.1 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2).

371. Many delegations expressed appreciation of the improved presentation of the document, while some delegations pointed out that the late receipt of document UNEP/GC.7/14/Rev.1 made it difficult for considered reactions to be given to the fundamental questions raised therein. One delegation requested that a glossary of the financial terms used in the Fund documentation be presented to the Committee at the eighth session of the Council.

372. Introducing the document, the Assistant Executive Director, Bureau of the Environment Fund and Administration, said that in the view of the secretariat, the gap between allocations and commitments and between commitments and expenditures

26/ For the text of the decision as adopted by the Governing Council, see annex I below, decision 7/14 B.

(about 20 per cent) was now at a reasonable level. Of the three options for the level of Fund programme activities in 1979 (UNEP/GC.7/14/Rev.1, para. 15) prepared in view of the shortfall of \$27.9 million in the medium-term plan target of \$150 million, option A implied using the full appropriation in the biennium, and therefore approving many more new projects. That would mean an additional \$5.5 million in convertible currency would be needed in 1979. Option B was constructed on the basis of available resources rather than the appropriation for the biennium; it would thus involve approving fewer new projects and would reduce planned activities by \$5.3 million. The programme document was based on option B. Option C provided for a still smaller programme, with practically no new activities in 1979, but with a planned cash carry-over of \$5 million instead of \$2 million for 1980. That would definitely affect UNEP's ability to carry out its catalytic and co-ordinating role.

373. The delegations of Bangladesh, France, Venezuela and Zaire pointed out that their Governments' increased contributions had not been mentioned. The representatives of Finland and Japan also announced increases in their Governments' contributions to the Environment Fund.

374. The representative of the United States of America pointed out that the Executive Director's estimate of available resources for 1980-1981 included an estimated contribution of \$10 million in convertible currency for each year from the United States. While confirming the level of the 1979 pledge at \$10 million, he cautioned that subject to action by the United States authorities, the contribution would probably be \$8 million in 1980. That decision, which was necessitated by the severe domestic pressures on the United States budget, including the international programme, in no way indicated a diminished interest of the United States in UNEP, and was not to be taken as a permanent pattern in the level of the voluntary contribution of the United States to UNEP. His Government fully maintained its enthusiastic interest in and support for the Programme.

375. Most delegations stressed the need to broaden the base of and to increase the level of contributions to the Environment Fund, and several supported the Executive Director's appeal for long-term pledges towards the medium-term plan. A number of delegations pointed out that their national budgetary procedures would not permit the announcement of other than their annual pledges. A few cautioned that such pledges could not be made without further review by Governments.

376. A few delegations questioned the presentation in the document of resources versus commitments and expenditures, and said that comparison of resources with expenditures would give a more positive picture of the situation facing the Environment Fund. It was also felt that the presentation in terms of commitments did not give a realistic picture of the Environment Fund's capacity to spend resources. In that connexion, a few delegations referred to the comments of the Board of Auditors contained in document UNEP/GC.7/L.1 and stressed that if a budget was to serve as an effective standard against which actual performance could be measured, it should reflect an expected and attainable level of activity.

377. Many delegations expressed their views on the options presented for the level of Fund programme and Fund programme reserve activities. Most delegations felt that option B was the most realistic, since no deficit would be encountered, new project activities would be increased, and an adequate cash carry-over would be maintained. Some delegations expressed the view that option A was the most realistic, as it would allow for development of projects which would meet the needs

of developing countries. They stressed that it would not be difficult to raise the additional \$5.5 million in convertible currency needed in 1979 under option A. Others felt that option C was the most realistic in terms of the limited resources of UNEP. It would moreover involve no reduction of the programme as against the 1978 level, and would give very modest scope for new activities. It was stressed that UNEP should take into consideration the current global situation of financial restraint. It was also felt that option C would maintain the stability of the programme through long-term planning. Finally, those delegations which favoured option C felt that there was little basis for expectation of increased contributions in 1979, and hence resources would not be sufficient for the other options. After further debate the Committee approved a level of Fund programme activities of \$42.8 million (option B) plus a \$1 million programme reserve in 1979.

378. Several delegations indicated their countries' concern over the proposed mode of utilization of any further resources that might become available in addition to the \$42.8 million. Some felt that such resources should be allocated according to the apportionment approved by the Governing Council at its seventh session. Others stipulated that they should be allocated to projects in countries where few or no UNEP projects were currently being implemented, in the light of the priorities of developing countries.

379. Some delegations expressed concern at what they felt to be a budgetary imbalance between available resources in convertible and non-convertible currency, and a corresponding imbalance in geographical distribution. Other delegations noted the increased efforts of the secretariat to use non-convertible currencies, which had already had a positive effect on the activities of UNEP, and would have even more effect in the future. They stressed that the secretariat was still not taking full advantage of the possibilities of financing various areas of the activities of UNEP with non-convertible currencies. It was also stressed that should reasonable efforts by UNEP to spend contributions to the Fund result in difficulties in reducing the accumulation of non-convertible currencies, they should be brought to the attention of the Governing Council in accordance with rule 203.4 of the Financial Rules of the Fund.

380. Several delegations expressed concern that attempts to reduce the size of the accumulation might lead to the development of projects having the effect of favouring one contributor over others, thereby distorting the implementation of the programme. Another delegation stated that the development of non-convertible currency projects should be carefully conducted with a view to ensuring that the full co-ordinating and catalysing functions were achieved and that such projects were justifiable in terms of efficiency, effectiveness, geographical location and the range of nationals involved. At the same time, the estimated level of conversion of non-convertible currencies in 1979 was welcomed.

381. Many delegations expressed concern that 13 per cent of the total cost of projects utilizing non-convertible currency must be spent in convertible currency. One speaker said that to his knowledge no other United Nations organization spent convertible currency in the implementation of projects utilizing non-convertible currency. One delegation explained the modes of utilization of the contribution of the major donor in non-convertible currency.

382. A few delegations expressed disagreement with the Executive Director's proposal for an over-all forward commitment authority of \$16 million in 1982 and 1983. A number of delegations asked the secretariat for details supporting the level of forward commitments proposed. After some discussion, it was agreed that

a level of \$11 million for the biennium 1982-1983 was acceptable, and would allow greater flexibility, while maintaining the level of forward commitment authority approved by the Governing Council at its sixth session for 1980-1981.

383. Several delegations expressed concern that if the Executive Director's proposal to maintain a cash carry-over level of \$2 million were accepted, adequate liquidity would not be maintained as required by Governing Council decision 6/13 D, paragraph 7. They therefore recommended that a higher level of cash carry-over be considered.

384. In reply to the concern expressed by several delegations on the level of cash carry-over, the Assistant Executive Director explained that a reduction to \$2 million would not jeopardize the liquidity of the Fund. With the addition of the financial reserve and the contributions paid in the first months of the year to the proposed cash carry-over of \$2 million, a liquidity of at least \$10 million would be maintained, as in the past; in the Executive Director's view, that constituted the required adequate level. The Committee finally endorsed the Executive Director's proposal.

385. A few delegations pointed out that the financial reserve must be kept at its present level of 8 per cent of the total appropriation, namely \$4.2 million in 1979.

386. One delegation, supported by others, suggested that Sessional Committee II should consider the two-digit budget line apportionment as well as the total allocation of funds for Fund programme activities. However, several other delegations pointed out that the issue had been discussed at previous Governing Council sessions and that the functions of the Sessional Committee could be reconsidered only with regard to future sessions.

387. A suggestion was made that a review be carried out of Fund programme activities with particular reference to internal projects, the extension of projects and the possibility of seeking alternative funding arrangements for established activities. Several delegations said that the high costs of programme and programme support, particularly of staff costs and travel expenses, and the over-high proportion of project costs sometimes borne by UNEP, inconsistently with its catalytic role, should be reduced, thereby releasing funds for other environmental activities. In that connexion, some delegations endorsed the tenor of paragraphs 21 to 24 of the Executive Director's note, which mentioned the need for a review of the Fund programme, whereas another noted that General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) stipulated that the Environment Fund could finance wholly or partly the costs of the new environmental initiatives undertaken within the United Nations system. Several delegations suggested that the priorities of the Fund Programme should be reviewed in the light of paragraph 22 of the Executive Director's note.

388. The Deputy Director of the Environment Fund introduced document UNEP/GC.7/14/Rev.1/Add.1 on the establishment of a trust fund for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution. Many delegations welcomed the establishment of the trust fund for the implementation of the plan of action for the Mediterranean for which the Governments' share was \$3,280,000 and that of UNEP \$1,640,000.

389. Introducing document UNEP/GC.7/14/Rev.1/Add.2 on the establishment of a trust

fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Deputy Assistant Executive Director, Bureau of the Environment Fund and Administration, stressed that the terms of Governing Council decision 6/5 D had been respected in the formulation of the proposed trust fund. While general appreciation of the document and of the work it represented was expressed, two delegations said that UNEP should not undertake to administer too many trust funds. They further cautioned that in administering the trust fund, UNEP should bear in mind the standard United Nations administrative overhead costs of 14 per cent.

390. Some delegations indicated the intention of their Governments to ratify the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and a few announced their Governments' intention to contribute to the Trust Fund.

391. Several delegations requested an indication of the precise amount which UNEP would contribute to the secretariat of the Convention in the 1980-1981 biennium. The Deputy Assistant Executive Director stated that the amount could be up to \$350,000, in accordance with decision 6/5 D.

392. At the conclusion of its debate on the subject, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council draft decisions 27/ on the management of the Environment Fund, the establishment of a Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and the establishment of a Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

2. Performance report for the biennium 1978-1979
and budget for the biennium 1980-1981

393. In its continued consideration of item 10 (c), the Committee had before it documents UNEP/GC.7/16 and 17, together with the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (UNEP/GC.7/L.3 and L.4).

394. The Deputy Assistant Executive Director said that the additional resources requested by the Executive Director in the performance report were estimated as \$73,700 representing a net amount after adjustments for inflation, fluctuations in currency rates of exchange, and the following proposals for staffing changes:

(a) Reclassification of three posts from P-4 to P-5;

(b) Establishment of four local level posts in the regional offices;

(c) Conversion to an established basis of two D-1, one P-5, one P-4 and four local level posts approved on a temporary basis for the Desertification Unit;

(d) Conversion to an established basis of 64 other local level posts financed from temporary assistance funds.

In preparing the estimates the Executive Director had been guided by the need for

27/ Ibid., decision 7/14 C, D and E.

restraint in the management of the financial resources of UNEP and had attempted, to the extent possible, to incorporate various suggestions made by Governments at the sixth session of the Council and more recently during the discussions on the United Nations regular budget in the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, as well as the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

395. He noted that some of the comments of the Advisory Committee regarding the proposed conversion of posts in the Desertification Unit seemed to indicate a misconception of the functions and responsibilities of the Unit and its relationship to UNSO; the technical backstopping of UNSO was only a part of the Unit's functions.

396. Regarding the biennium 1980-1981, he said that if the proposals of the Executive Director for section 13 of the regular budget were included in the Secretary-General's budget proposals and were approved by the General Assembly, and the Executive Director's proposals to establish one P-3 and one local level post under the programme and programme support costs budget were approved by the Governing Council, the result would be a net decrease of five Professional and five local level posts financed from the latter budget in 1980-1981.

397. The Advisory Committee had recommended that the maintenance base for salaries and common staff costs be reduced by \$500,000 to take into account the existing vacancy situation in UNEP. Although that would represent a departure from standard United Nations practice regarding turnover rates, the Executive Director could accept the recommendation on the understanding that expenditures could be incurred for salaries and common staff costs on the basis of the approved staffing tables.

398. Paragraph 13 of the Advisory Committee's report stated that the provision for inflation need not exceed \$2,000,000; that observation was based on the assumption by the Secretary-General of an inflation rate of 10 per cent per year in Nairobi for 1980-1981. The inflation rate for Nairobi, compounded over the 1980-1981 biennium, would require 15.5 per cent more resources over requirements estimated at 1979 prices, and the estimates made by UNEP reflected an average rate of 14.2 per cent, the difference being accounted for by the lower rates of inflation for New York and Geneva. Thus, the Executive Director's estimates for inflation were already lower than the rate which the Secretary-General proposed to assume for Nairobi for 1980-1981.

399. Some delegations said that there appeared to be some difficulties in communication between UNEP and the Advisory Committee, and suggested that they should maintain a continuous dialogue; since many proposals of the Executive Director were the same as last year, as were the comments of the Advisory Committee, the misunderstandings between the Advisory Committee and UNEP were difficult to understand. Some delegations requested the Executive Director to attempt to establish with the Advisory Committee a procedure whereby a full dialogue would take place between the Committee and himself before the presentation of Advisory Committee reports to future sessions of the Governing Council.

400. Several delegations insisted that in view of the competence and important role of the Advisory Committee, its recommendations on administrative and budgetary matters should be strictly followed, unless there were compelling reasons to the contrary. On the other hand, some delegations expressed the view that the

recommendations of the Advisory Committee should be taken into account only to the extent possible.

401. The Committee discussed at length the proposed conversion to an established basis of the posts approved on a temporary basis for the Desertification Unit. Several delegations stressed the importance of the Unit, and said that its tasks could only be discharged on a long-term basis, with highly qualified staff who could not be retained unless they were assured job security. They therefore supported the Executive Director's proposal. Other delegations, agreeing fully with the views of the Advisory Committee as expressed in paragraph 14 of its report, 28/ felt that there was no apparent need to convert the temporary posts to established posts, and two added that the conversion would represent a permanent claim on the resources of the Fund.

402. In its efforts to find an acceptable solution to the staffing of the Desertification Unit, and after consultations among the regional groups, the Committee proposed a Desertification Unit of the composition decided upon on an established basis. The secretariat found it more acceptable that two of the P-4 posts be established ad interim.

403. Several delegations inquired whether UNEP had a clear-cut long-term staffing policy, and if so, whether it could be explained to the Committee. Some delegations also said that the staffing structure of the Desertification Unit seemed to be too top-heavy. Other delegations asked whether the conversion to established posts could not be postponed until 1980, when the Advisory Committee would be able to present a fully informed opinion on the subject and the needs of the Unit would be more clearly defined.

404. The Executive Director expressed his respect for the Advisory Committee as an organ with high expertise. The Advisory Committee, the Governing Council and he himself were in a difficult situation due to the meeting schedule of the Advisory Committee and the Governing Council; the fact that the former would not meet until after the Council's current session was over had deprived him of the opportunity to explain to the Committee as a whole the points raised in its report, on which its recommendations were based. That situation might arise again in the future, because of the meeting schedule, and he would try to find a solution with the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

405. His staffing policy was severely restrictive and he was firmly committed to the concept of a small, high-level secretariat for the Desertification Unit. He had already cut down his staff requirements for the Unit from 10 to 8 posts, and had used 24 man-months of consultancy services on an ad hoc basis. Referring to paragraph 14 of the Advisory Committee's report, he explained that the activities undertaken by UNSO on behalf of UNEP related only to the 15 Sudano-Saharan countries. The Desertification Unit, in addition to supporting UNSO, had to co-operate with another 85 countries facing desertification problems. The Unit was also responsible for servicing the inter-agency Working Group on Desertification and the Consultative Group for Desertification Control.

28/ UNEP/GC.7/L.3.

406. The Chief of the Desertification Unit explained that the Unit currently had six transnational projects and two projects with IPAL and EMASAR, as well as a number of projects such as training courses in sand dune fixation in China and the Soviet Union. He noted with satisfaction one country's offer to host a regional centre, with the assistance of UNEP. As to the question of top-heavy grade structure, he pointed out that the Unit had to contact Government and United Nations officials at decision-making level.

407. The Committee discussed at length the upgrading of the Deputy Regional Representative posts as well as the establishment of four local level posts in the regional offices. Several delegations felt that UNEP regional representation should be strengthened, and therefore agreed to the proposals of the Executive Director. Others did not see the need for the upgrading of the deputy posts, especially in view of the opinion expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 12 of its report (UNEP/GC.7/L.3). A few delegations said they agreed that there was a need to strengthen the regional offices, but did not believe that could be done only by upgrading the posts, and requested an assurance that the purpose of the upgrading was to attract highly qualified senior staff who would indeed reinforce the regional representation, and not to accommodate promotions. One delegation cautioned that the upgrading would represent an additional cost to the Environment Fund in the biennium 1980-1981 which it would have preferred to see used for Fund programme activities.

408. The Deputy Assistant Executive Director stated that the Executive Director's general policy was not to recommend reclassification of posts for reasons of promotion. As with all United Nations bodies, promotion was an entirely separate process from reclassification. The upgrading of the three deputy posts would equalize the positions in all the regional and liaison offices; as the Governing Council was aware, the deputy posts were already at the P-5 level in one regional office and one liaison office. With regard to the need for additional local staff in the regional offices, he pointed out that they had an increasing workload, especially with work of a technical assistance nature and the growing programme of travel grants, which required additional administrative assistance.

409. Some delegations noted that the conversion of the 64 local-level temporary assistance posts to established posts would become an additional permanent burden on the resources of the Environment Fund. Other delegations suggested that the posts could be established on an ad interim basis for four years, after which the the Governing Council could review the situation. Some delegations requested the preparation of a study of the financial implications of common services with the other United Nations organizations which would occupy the new headquarters at Gigiri. Many delegations, however, were in favour of the conversion of the 64 local-level posts to an established basis, pointing out that it represented only a small burden on the Environment Fund, and that the psychological effect of keeping staff members on a temporary basis over a long period of time would be detrimental to their work.

410. The Deputy Assistant Executive Director explained that the Executive Director's proposal related only to the minimum requirements for the temporary premises, and that some cost-sharing of common services was already in effect between UNEP and the Habitat Centre. When the permanent headquarters were occupied, in 1983 or 1984, there would be common services of the United Nations, as in the case of New York, Geneva and Vienna. Their cost would be borne by the regular budget, and all participating organizations would reimburse the United

Nations on the basis of a cost-sharing formula. All related proposals of the Secretary-General, including their financial implications, would be reviewed by the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly. He also pointed out that the Advisory Committee had raised no objections to the Executive Director's proposal to convert the 64 local-level posts to an established basis.

411. With regard to the proposed budget for programme and programme support costs in 1980-1981, many delegations said that, as the Advisory Committee was a highly qualified body, they supported its recommendations. Several other delegations expressed concern over the increased amount of resources requested by the Executive Director for the programme and programme support costs budget, noting that at the same time Fund programme activities were being cut due to the scarcity of resources. The Committee expressed concern at the ratio of administrative costs in relation to Fund programme activities and accordingly stressed the need to reduce the programme and programme support costs budget. In that connexion, the Committee felt that there should be a study regarding the optimum proportion of programme and programme support costs to the cost of Fund programme activities. It further stressed that the rate of increase of programme and programme support costs was higher than the proposed rate of increase of voluntary contributions, and felt that represented an unwise use of Fund resources. One delegation asked if the transfer of six Professional and six local-level posts from the Environment Fund to section 13 A of the United Nations regular budget was in line with the proportion of staff costs to be borne by each budget established by the General Assembly. Another delegation, supported by several others, noted that even though the recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraph 9 of document UNEP/GC.7/L.4 had not been calculated on the same turnover rates as the secretariat's recommendation, the Advisory Committee's reduction should be supported if it could be accepted by the secretariat.

412. The Deputy Assistant Executive Director explained that the proposed programme and programme support costs for the biennium 1980-1981 financed by UNEP, when compared to the biennium 1978-1979, showed a net decrease of 3.8 per cent in real terms, as shown in table 22 of the Executive Director's note. 29/ In reply to the concern expressed regarding the relationship between administrative costs and Fund programme activities, he pointed out that programme support costs were not solely administrative, as they included a substantial element of programming activities. As to the suggestion of some delegations that the Committee accept the Advisory Committee's recommendation despite the fact that it was not in line with standard United Nations practice for calculation of turnover rates, the Executive Director could agree if expenditures could be incurred for salaries and common staff costs on the basis of the approved staffing tables. The transfer of posts from the programme and programme support costs budget to section 13 A of the regular budget was in line with the rationale approved by the Council on the basis of the comments of the Advisory Committee, which had also noted that the agreed proportion between regular budget and Environment Fund established posts would be reached within the next biennium.

413. At the conclusion of its discussion of the subject, the Committee recommended for adoption by the Governing Council draft decisions 30/ on programme

29/ UNEP/GC.7/17.

30/ For the text of the decisions as adopted by the Council, see annex I below, decisions 7/14 F and G.

and programme support costs 1978-1979 and the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1980-1981.

3. United Nations accommodation at Nairobi

414. Continuing its discussion of agenda item 10 (c), the Committee had before it document UNEP/GC.7/15. The Chief, Division of Administration, noted that document UNEP/GC.7/3, annex, mentioned several of the design aspects of the future UNEP headquarters which incorporated environmental concerns such as labour-intensive methods, locally supplied building materials from renewable resources, solar heating, etc.

415. Delegations raised questions on the use of common services by all United Nations organizations based at the permanent headquarters, the basis of rental charges and payments, the degree of co-ordination with the Office of the General Services at United Nations Headquarters. One delegation mentioned the possibility of using non-convertible currencies for the purchase of building materials and equipment. Some noted that if the new conference facilities would not be sufficiently used, perhaps the secretariat should reconsider the necessity of building such extensive facilities and look into the possibility of continuing to use the Kenyatta Conference Centre for large meetings or conferences or seek additional users for the Gigiri complex.

416. The Chief, Division of Administration, said that a policy decision concerning the use of common services would be taken by the Secretary-General in consultation with the General Assembly. However, printing facilities, storage, computer, security, catering, medical, mail and pouch operations and similar services would be shared by all user organizations. Rent would be charged at less than commercial rates and, as in other United Nations offices, would be payable to the United Nations to reimburse the amortized costs of construction and maintenance. There was continuous co-ordination and communication with the Office of General Services, in New York, in connexion with the project. The present known use of the conference facilities would be four weeks for the UNEP Governing Council and the Commission on Human Settlements, to which would be added the use of the facilities for other meetings, seminars, etc. convened by the organizations occupying the premises or by United Nations Headquarters.

417. The Assistant Executive Director, Bureau of the Environment Fund and Administration, said that the use of non-convertible currencies for the purchase of building materials would be considered as design development continued.

418. After requesting that the comments of various delegations be considered by UNEP and the Office of General Services, New York, the Committee took note of the Executive Director's report on the subject. 31/

31/ See annex 1 below, decision 7/14 H.

D. Adoption of the report

419. At the time of the adoption of the paragraphs of the report on administrative and budgetary matters, the representatives of Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia indicated that it was felt among the North African countries that there was a need for a physical presence of UNEP in North Africa and suggested that the establishment of a sub-regional office of the African regional office would be a welcome move. The essential reasons, in their view, were the specific nature of the ecological problems in the subregion, the involvement of the countries of the subregion in the Mediterranean Plan of Action and the need to facilitate their contacts with UNEP headquarters. The Executive Director was therefore being requested to consider that possibility and to consult with Governments concerned regarding the facilities which a prospective host Government could make available.

Action by the Governing Council

420. For the action by the Governing Council on the draft decisions recommended by Sessional Committee II, see chapter X below, paragraphs 427-429.

CHAPTER VIII

OTHER BUSINESS

421. The only issue under agenda item 12, relations with non-governmental organizations, was assigned to Sessional Committee I for consideration in the context of its debate on the information component of the environment programme. For an account of the Committee's discussion, see chapter IV above, paragraphs 294-296 and 299. At the 11th meeting of the session, on 3 May 1979, the Governing Council adopted, on the recommendation of Sessional Committee I, decision 7/15 on relations with non-governmental organizations.

CHAPTER IX

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

A. Date and place of the eighth session

422. The Governing Council considered the date and place of its eighth session and the question of informal consultations with Governments at the 9th and 10th plenary meetings of the session, on 2 and 3 May 1979.

423. At its 9th meeting, on 2 May 1979, the Council adopted by consensus a draft decision 32/ suggested by the President on the inter-sessional informal consultations between its seventh and eighth sessions. At the 10th meeting, it adopted by consensus a draft decision 32/ suggested by the President on the date and place of its eighth session.

B. Draft provisional agenda for the eighth session

424. At the 9th plenary meeting of the session, on 2 May 1979, the Governing Council approved the draft provisional agenda for its eighth session, 33/ as contained in a draft decision suggested by the President.

32/ Ibid., "Other decisions".

33/ For the text of the provisional agenda as approved, see annex I below, "Other decisions".

CHAPTER X

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION

425. The Governing Council considered the draft report on the work of its seventh session at the 9th, 10th and 11th plenary meetings of the session, on 2 and 3 May 1979.

426. During the consideration of the draft report on the general debate, the Chinese delegation said it had requested that paragraph 109 of the draft report of the Governing Council, which contained the summary of the statement made in exercise of the right of reply by the Chinese delegation, be placed immediately after paragraph 49, in which the slanderous Soviet statement against China appeared. That request was in conformity with the principle by which paragraphs were put in their proper order according to the substance of the questions concerned, as had been the practice at all previous sessions of the Council. However, the Rapporteur, in deference to the wishes of the delegation of a major power, had refused to accept the reasonable proposal made by the Chinese delegation. The Chinese delegation could not but express its regret with regard to that partiality and the departure from the established practice of drafting reports.

427. At the 10th plenary meeting of the session on 3 May 1979, the Governing Council took note of the report of Sessional Committee II and adopted the draft decisions recommended by the Committee (decisions 7/12 and 7/14).

428. Regarding decision 7/14 F, paragraph 6, on the staffing of the Desertification Unit, the Executive Director noted that the Council, in response to his proposal that two D-1 posts, one P-5 post and one P-4 post be converted from a temporary assistance to an established basis, had established on a permanent basis one D-1 and one P-4 post, and on an interim basis two P-4 posts. His interpretation of that decision was that the Council, while not satisfied with the functions to be performed by the other two proposed posts, had not however changed the levels of those posts, since that was the prerogative of the chief executive of UNEP alone: rather, it had decided to establish two new posts in the Desertification Unit, and to review in two years' time the functions of the Unit as they related to those posts.

429. The representative of Japan said that in the deliberations on matters related to programme and programme support costs in Sessional Committee II, his delegation had expressed the view that, in view of the competence and important role of the Advisory Committee on administrative and budgetary matters within the United Nations system, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee should be strictly followed unless there were strong grounds to the contrary. He wished to reiterate that view, and at the same time his delegation's strong reservations at the fact that UNEP was increasing its expenditures for the administrative side, rather than for concrete actions to cope with urgent environmental problems. His delegation would have preferred to see more allocations made for Fund programme activities by limiting the increase in the staff of the UNEP secretariat, since that could imply a long-term commitment and burden on the Environment Fund, which had reached a difficult situation in terms of liquidity of its financial resources. However, in the spirit of compromise and co-operation, his delegation had not called for a vote or broken the consensus on the matter.

430. At the 11th plenary meeting of the session, on 3 May 1979, the Governing Council took note of the report of Sessional Committee I, as orally revised by the Committee's Rapporteur, and adopted the decisions recommended by the Committee (decisions 7/3 to 7/11 and 7/15).

431. The representatives of Colombia and Brazil stated, however, that they did not wish to associate themselves with the contents of paragraph 1 of the decision on environmental law (decision 7/11), and had therefore not joined the consensus on that decision. The representatives of India and Mexico reserved their position on the paragraph, and felt that it was necessary for the General Assembly to consider the report of the Working Group which prepared the 15 principles for the conduct of States in respect of shared natural resources, and to resolve the reservations contained therein, before the adoption of the principles could be taken up.

432. The representative of Canada said that his delegation had participated fully in the discussions on all matters of business before the Council at the seventh session. In so doing, its aim had been to provide policy guidance with respect to the continuing development and improvement of the environment programme of the United Nations system, and particularly of the role of UNEP in catalysing and co-ordinating the relevant activities in order to promote the improvement of environmental conditions throughout the world. In its view, much of the work of the Council's current session had been steered into that direction. At the same time, however, a number of decisions had been taken, with respect both to the programme as a whole and to Fund programme activities, which in its view were not sufficiently consistent with UNEP's global responsibilities. His delegation was concerned about the tendency to create an imbalance in the programme through excessive attention to regional and subregional interests, and found it difficult to accept decisions which would increase programme and programme support costs at a time when the planned level of Fund programme activities for 1979 was being decreased. Its efforts had been directed at maintaining the integrity of the programme as a whole, of the secretariat as a small group with a catalytic and co-ordinating mandate, and of the Fund as designed to support that mandate, and he hoped that its interventions had been understood in that light. What was at stake in the longer term was the credibility and viability of UNEP, and with it the wholehearted support of Governments and, more importantly, of the general public.

433. The Executive Director recalled that he had raised the issue of the decision-making process in regard to programme matters at the sixth session of the Governing Council, and that it had been discussed at the inter-sessional informal consultations in January 1979. He therefore welcomed the substantial improvement in sharpening and clarifying the decisions recommended by Sessional Committee I, and appreciated the consultations with the secretariat in the actual drafting of the decisions. He believed, however, that further efforts should be undertaken to streamline the decision-making process with respect to number of decisions, length of preambular paragraphs and length of time required in Sessional Committee I, and he hoped that the next intersessional consultations would provide some proposals in that regard for consideration by the Council at its eighth session.

434. The Council adopted the present report at the 12th plenary meeting of the session, on 4 May 1979, subject to the incorporation of amendments approved at the 9th, 10th and 11th meetings.

CHAPTER XI

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

435. At the 12th plenary meeting of the session, on 4 May 1979, after the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the seventh session of the Governing Council closed.

ANNEX I

Decisions of the Governing Council at its seventh session

CONTENTS

Decision number	Title	Date of adoption	Page
7/1	Programme policy and implementation	3 May 1979	89
7/2	Environmental conditions of the Palestinian people	3 May 1979	95
7/3	Programme matters	3 May 1979	96
7/4	Earthwatch		
	A. Environmental assessment	3 May 1979	99
	B. Monitoring of transboundary transmission of air pollutants	3 May 1979	100
	C. International Referral System	3 May 1979	100
	D. Climate and the environment	3 May 1979	101
	E. Activities relating to carbon dioxide	3 May 1979	102
7/5	Health of people and of the environment	3 May 1979	102
7/6	Terrestrial ecosystems		
	A. Tropical woodlands and forest ecosystems	3 May 1979	103
	B. Soils policy	3 May 1979	104
	C. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	3 May 1979	105
7/7	Environment and development activities		
	A. Environment and development	3 May 1979	105
	B. Cost-benefit analysis	3 May 1979	106
7/8	Regional seas: Mediterranean Action Plan	3 May 1979	106
7/9	Energy	3 May 1979	107

CONTENTS (continued)

Decision number	Title	Date of adoption	Page
7/10	Education and training		
	A. International Centre for Training and Education in Environmental Sciences	3 May 1979	108
	B. Promotion of environmental education and training	3 May 1979	109
7/11	Environmental law	3 May 1979	109
7/12	Regional programming initiatives (Asia)	3 May 1979	111
7/13	Action to combat desertification		
	A. Special account to finance the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification	3 May 1979	112
	B. Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, with special reference to the Sudano-Sahelian region	3 May 1979	112
	C. Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the African region	3 May 1979	114
7/14	Matters relating to the Environment Fund		
	A. Implementation of the Fund programme	3 May 1979	115
	B. Financial reports and accounts	3 May 1979	115
	C. Management of the Environment Fund	3 May 1979	116
	D. Establishment of a Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution	3 May 1979	118
	E. Establishment of a Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	3 May 1979	119
	F. Programme and programme support costs, 1978-1979	3 May 1979	119
	G. Programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1980-1981	3 May 1979	121
	H. United Nations accommodation at Nairobi	3 May 1979	122
7/15	Relationships with non-governmental organizations	3 May 1979	122

CONTENTS (continued)

Page

Other decisions

Provisional agenda, date and place of the eighth session of the Governing Council	123
Intersessional informal consultations with Governments	124

7/1. Programme policy and implementation

The Governing Council,

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

Taking fully into account General Assembly resolutions 33/86 of 15 December 1978 on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its sixth session, 33/87 of 15 December 1978 on co-operation in the field of the environment concerning natural resources shared by two or more States, 33/193 of 29 January 1979 on preparations for an international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade and 33/198 of 29 January 1979 on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in 1980, and decision 33/421 of 15 December 1978 on marine pollution, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly at its thirty-third session and of the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1978, 2/

Having considered:

- (a) The introductory report of the Executive Director, 3/
- (b) The introductory statement of the Executive Director, 4/
- (c) The note by the Executive Director on the System-wide Medium-term Environment Programme, 5/
- (d) The report of the Executive Director on the state of the environment, 1979, 6/
- (e) The report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Governing Council at its seventh session, 7/

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

Having special regard to its decisions on programme and fund programme activities and on the management of the Environment Fund,

1/ Decisions 1 (I) of 22 June 1973, 5 (II) of 21 March 1974, 20 (III) of 2 May 1975, 47 (IV) of 14 April 1976, 82 (V) of 25 May 1977 and 6/1 of 24 May 1978.

2/ UNEP/GC.7/3/Annex.

3/ UNEP/GC.7/3 and Corr.1.

4/ UNEP/GC.7/3/Add.1 and Corr.1.

5/ UNEP/GC.7/6.

6/ UNEP/GC.7/4 and Corr.1.

7/ UNEP/GC.7/5.

Environmental considerations in the new international
development strategy

1. Notes that the General Assembly, by resolution 33/193 of 29 January 1979, emphasized that the new international development strategy should reflect, in an appropriate manner, the need for, inter alia, the protection of the environment and taking environmental considerations into account, in accordance with the development plans and priorities of developing countries, and decided to establish a Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy;
2. Notes further that the General Assembly requested the United Nations Environment Programme to contribute effectively to the preparatory work of the new international development strategy by providing inputs, including relevant documentation, in accordance with the objectives set forth in the above-mentioned resolution;
3. Considers that the prime concern of the developing countries at present is poverty and its environmental implications such as poor water supply, inadequate housing and sanitation, low nutritional standards, dangers to health, vulnerability to natural disasters and the deterioration of fragile ecosystems leading to food shortages;
4. Recognizes that all countries have, in the past, acted too often to safeguard economic interests, or for other reasons, without adequately considering, in view of insufficient awareness, the environmental consequences and that, as a result, the world today faces serious environmental problems; it is thus important that balance is maintained between development and environmental protection;
5. Considers that the possibility of successfully establishing a new international economic order may largely depend on the environmental and ecological soundness of the actions taken and on the rational management of resources;
6. Stresses that the new international development strategy should take into account the tolerance of the environment; this should enable a greater measure of sustainable development to be achieved than would otherwise be possible;
7. Considers that environmental considerations should be reflected in the new international development strategy as a whole, and not just in a section devoted to such concerns;
8. Welcomes the intention of the Executive Director to address the June session of the Preparatory Committee at its invitation, and requests him in his address to reflect the views expressed by the Governing Council at its present session;
9. Requests the Executive Director to participate actively in the further process of the formulation of the new international development strategy;
10. Notes that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination has recognized 8/

8/ UNEP/GC.7/5, para. 17.

that environmental considerations are an integral part of the sectoral responsibilities of its members, who would therefore be expected to include these considerations in the contributions that they make to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly in 1980, which is expected to adopt the new international development strategy, inter alia through the support they provide to their own intergovernmental forums;

11. Requests intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the governing bodies of the specialized agencies, and the regional commissions to take environmental considerations fully into account in their contributions to the preparation of the new international development strategy;

II

Co-ordination questions

The system-wide medium-term environment programme

1. Recalls its decision 6/1, section II, of 24 May 1978 as it relates to the medium-term environment programme;
2. Notes that the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1978 9/, and the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, 10/ welcomed in particular this decision of the Governing Council, and that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its eighteenth session 11/ considered the system-wide programme a development to be encouraged, wished to be kept informed of progress and agreed to advise as necessary;
3. Endorses the further proposals of the Executive Director 12/ regarding the development of the system-wide medium-term environment programme;
4. Requests the Executive Director to develop a perspective document, providing the context for the medium-term programme document, taking into account the relevant proposals made in his introductory report 13/ and in his note on the system-wide medium-term environment programme, 14/ as well as the views expressed thereon by the Governing Council;

9/ Resolution 1978/62 of 3 August 1978.

10/ Resolution 33/86 of 15 December 1978.

11/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/33/38).

12/ UNEP/GC.7/6, paras. 21-28.

13/ UNEP/GC.7/3 and Corr.1, paras. 6 and 7.

14/ UNEP/GC.7/6, para. 30.

Progress in the restructuring of the economic and
social sectors of the United Nations system

5. Notes that the General Assembly, by resolution 33/86 of 15 December 1978, invited the executive heads, members of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to continue to consider, after the merger of the Environment Co-ordination Board with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, environmental matters at their level;
6. Notes with satisfaction that in accordance with its decision 6/1, section II, paragraph 7, and with the decision 15/ taken by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1978 after consideration of the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, 16/ the Executive Director has assumed responsibility for the preparatory process for the discharge by the Administrative Committee of its function of reporting to the Council, and that the preparatory process involves appropriate consultations with officials designated by the heads of the concerned members of the United Nations system;
7. Expresses appreciation of the first report 17/ presented to it by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination following the merger and urges the Administrative Committee to ensure that the Governing Council is kept informed of the progress and of any difficulties in co-ordinating work in international co-operation in the field of the environment;
8. Also notes with satisfaction the co-operation established between the Executive Director and the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation in areas of mutual concern, and welcomes the intention of the Executive Director to continue to co-operate fully with the Director-General;
9. Recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 18/ on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, stressed the role of the regional commissions of the United Nations;
10. Invites the attention of the regional commissions to the advantages of setting up, if they have not done so already, intergovernmental regional environmental committees for exchange of views and experiences on environmental policies and for the formulation of policies for action to overcome regional environmental problems;

Co-operation with other organizations

11. Notes with appreciation the close co-operation established between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human

15/ Decision 1978/70 of 4 August 1978.

16/ E/1978/107.

17/ UNEP/GC.7/5.

18/ Resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, annex, sect. IV, "Structures for regional and interregional co-operation".

Settlements (Habitat), as reflected in the report of the Executive Director on co-ordination with the Commission on Human Settlements, 19/ the statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the introductory statement of the Executive Director; 20/

12. Also notes with appreciation the co-operation between the Programme and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the World Wildlife Fund in the preparation of a world conservation strategy which is based upon the concept of sustainable development and the rational use of living natural resources, and welcomes the Executive Director's intention to communicate the strategy to Governments as soon as practicable and to ensure that the Programme, as appropriate, assists in the implementation of the strategy;

III

Periodicity, duration, organization and preparation of Governing Council sessions

1. Endorses the recommendation of the Executive Director 21/ that annual sessions of the Governing Council be continued until 1983 and decides to re-examine this subject in 1982;

2. Endorses the recommendation of the Executive Director 22/ that the duration of Governing Council sessions normally be limited to a maximum of ten working days;

3. Decides that the Council should concentrate in odd years on, but not deal exclusively with, budgetary and administrative matters, regular budget and programme support costs, and financial reports, and on programme matters concerning the perspective document and the objectives for the medium-term period, and in even years on the medium-term environment programme (including required appropriations), taking into account the requirements of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the United Nations medium-term planning process;

4. Welcomes the suggestion 23/ that the first part of each session be devoted mainly to committee work and that plenary meetings start later in the session;

5. Notes with satisfaction the decrease in the volume of documentation submitted to the Council at its seventh session and welcomes the Executive Director's intention to continue his efforts towards further reduction in the volume of documentation and concurrent improvement in its quality;

19/ UNEP/GC.7/11.

20/ UNEP/GC.7/3/Add.1 and Corr.1.

21/ UNEP/GC.7/3, para. 11.

22/ Ibid., para. 20.

23/ Ibid., para. 18.

6. Requests the Executive Director further to expand reporting between sessions, particularly through the Report to Governments;

7. Approves the suggestion 24/ that the inter-sessional informal consultations with Governments be held in the first half of December each year;

8. Agrees to consider at its eighth session, on the basis of a report to be prepared by the Executive Director on the legal, financial and organizational implications, the question of giving its tenth session in 1982 a special character with broader participation by all States members of the United Nations system;

IV

State of the environment reports

1. Decides on the following topics for the state of the environment report to be submitted to the Governing Council at its eighth session in 1980:

(a) Transport and the environment;

(b) The child and the environment;

(c) Environmental health: heavy metal hazards;

(d) Environmental effects of military activity;

(e) Climatic changes, deforestation, carbon dioxide and the carbon cycle;

2. Endorses the procedure for the preparation and subsequent publication of the state of the environment report for 1982, suggested by the Executive Director in his introductory report, 25/ and requests the Executive Director to report further to the Governing Council at its eighth session on the preparation of the report;

V

Matters relating to programme implementation

1. Welcomes the progress made in regard to phasing out financial support from the Environment Fund for the administrative costs of the Mediterranean Action Plan and for secretariat services for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora;

2. Reiterates that in providing initial support for activities, the intention of the United Nations Environment Programme is to exercise its catalytic role and demonstrate their viability and usefulness, with a view to continuing action being taken by its partners in the activities;

24/ Ibid., para. 24.

25/ Ibid., paras. 49-52.

3. Urges those institutions in whose spheres of competence such activities lie to establish plans which ensure the ultimate assumption by them of full responsibility for those activities on a continuing basis, and the implementation of such follow-up actions as are required;

4. Urges the Executive Director to take active steps to assist developing countries to develop and strengthen the capabilities of national and regional institutions to tackle environmental problems which impair the quality of life in these countries;

5. Welcomes the intention of the Executive Director to exert more effort towards improvement in the following areas:

(a) Consolidating and integrating activities in the field of environmental assessment;

(b) Sharpening the focus of treatment of emerging problems in the annual state of the environment report;

(c) Implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, especially the financial aspects;

(d) Halting the disastrous depletion of tropical forests and woodlands;

(e) Public information.

10th meeting
3 May 1979

7/2. Environmental conditions of the Palestinian people

The Governing Council,

Noting with satisfaction the introductory report of the Executive Director to the Governing Council at its seventh session, 26/

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/110 of 18 December 1978 on the living conditions of the Palestinian people;

Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To ensure an adequate assessment of the environmental conditions of the Palestinian people in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 33/110;

(b) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its eighth session.

10th meeting
3 May 1979

26/ UNEP/GC.7/3 and Corr.1.

7/3. Programme matters

The Governing Council,

Having considered the Executive Director's report on the environment programme, 27/

Taking into account previous decisions of the Governing Council and relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly,

1. Notes with approval the efforts of the Executive Director to improve the presentation of the programme, and the new presentation of the progress report and work plan sections;
2. Notes with satisfaction the contributions made by organizations within the United Nations system to improving the content of the programme document;
3. Calls upon organizations of the United Nations system, Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to assist the Executive Director in preparing the programme document, and in particular reiterates its call upon United Nations organizations to contribute concrete budgetary data regarding their plans as they relate to the environment programme;
4. Approves, with due regard to the comments of the Governing Council at its seventh session:

(a) The new and revised objectives and strategies proposed by the Executive Director for the following parts of the programme:

- (i) Environmental data; 28/
- (ii) Human settlements; 29/
- (iii) Environmentally sound and appropriate technology; 30/
- (iv) Industry and environment; 31/
- (v) Energy; 32/
- (vi) Natural disasters; 33/

27/ UNEP/GC.7/7 and Corr.1 and 3 and Add.1.

28/ UNEP/GC.7/7, para. 56.

29/ Ibid., para. 62 and Corr.1.

30/ Ibid., para. 114.

31/ Ibid., para. 119.

32/ Ibid., para. 135.

33/ Ibid., para. 140.

(b) The revised goal for 1982 for natural disasters; 34/

(c) The merging of arid lands and desertification under one budget line;

(d) The revised objectives and strategies for the integrated approach to environment and development, including ecodevelopment; and use of natural resources; and the revised strategies for soils contained in the annex to the present decision;

5. Approves the work plans as outlined in the programme document, in the light of the comments and in conformity with the decisions of the Governing Council at its seventh session;

6. Requests the Executive Director to review programme activities in which the catalytic role of the Environment Fund has been in operation for four years with a view to ensuring that, as appropriate and when feasible, the financial support of the United Nations Environment Programme for those activities that tend to involve the Fund on a long-term basis is gradually phased out;

7. Further requests the Executive Director, in presenting the programme and budget in future years, to endeavour to take into account the following criteria for the determination of priorities:

(a) Greater emphasis should be placed on environmental aspects of activities and programmes that contribute most towards the realization of a new international development strategy in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/193 of 29 January 1979;

(b) High priority should be given to those activities that contribute to improvement of the basic human environmental condition, paying special heed to the needs of the less developed countries in this regard;

(c) Those activities that contribute to the assessment of irreversible deleterious processes as well as those that promote the restrained use of non-renewable resources and better use of renewable resources should be emphasized;

(d) Emphasis should progressively be placed on regional activities generally, and on those national or regional activities whose results are readily transferable to and usable in other geographical areas;

(e) Greater emphasis should be placed on those activities that have a practical application;

(f) Those activities and programmes that generally contribute to the over-all integrity of the United Nations Environment Programme should be maintained.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

34/ Ibid., para. 140 (c).

Annex

Revised objectives and strategies for the integrated approach to environment and development, including ecodevelopment and use of natural resources

(a) Objectives:

- (i) To promote environmentally sound and appropriate economic development;
- (ii) To promote socio-economically sound and appropriate environmental management planning;
- (iii) To promote research on, develop, test, apply and adapt tools and approaches for integrating the environmental dimension into development;

(b) Strategies:

- (i) To continue to refine and promote the conceptual framework for environment-development relationships;
- (ii) To develop methodologies to demonstrate the advantages of the integrated approach;
- (iii) To develop methods and to promote the conduct of environmental impact assessments of socio-economic development endeavours;
- (iv) To develop methods and to promote the conduct of socio-economic impact assessments of environmental protection and management measures;
- (v) To identify various constraints and obstacles in mapping approaches and strategies for attainment of the objectives, and to develop means of overcoming them;
- (vi) To concentrate on a limited number of key issues and areas of action in this field which would have direct relevance to a new international strategy, such as:
 - Studies on trade effects of environmental measures and industry redeployment;
 - Activities on alternative patterns of development and lifestyles, including patterns of production and consumption, and natural resource use, as a means of attaining environmentally sound and sustainable development;
 - Costs and benefits of implementing environmentally sound and sustainable development.

Revised strategies for soils

- (a) Quantitative measurement of the area of available soil, and qualitative and quantitative measurement of its productivity;

- (b) Understanding the dynamics of soil degradation and soil loss;
- (c) Support for action to prevent further soil degradation and soil loss;
- (d) Programmes at the regional and local levels to restore and enhance soil fertility;
- (e) Optimizing irrigation methods for specific soil/crop situations, avoiding inappropriate practices in defined situations;
- (f) Regional, national and local programmes to demonstrate integrated soil management, taking account of socio-economic factors;
- (g) Development or strengthening of supporting measures (education, training and public information) in relation to soil conservation and effective utilization.

7/4. Earthwatch

A

Environmental assessment

The Governing Council,

Believing that with regard to global environmental risks, the United Nations Environment Programme, in co-operation with national Governments and relevant members of the United Nations system, should identify activities which may be environmentally harmful in order to fulfil its role in providing advice on policy options that are designed to prevent or mitigate the degradation of the environment,

Aware that soundly-based environmental assessments are useful to nations in the conduct of national and multinational environment programmes,

Considering that the wise management of the environment is inextricably linked to comprehensive environmental assessments,

Requests the Executive Director to convene as soon as possible an ad hoc meeting of Government experts to consult on the development of mechanisms and procedures for conducting environmental assessment within Earthwatch, and to report on the results of such consultations and any recommendations resulting therefrom to the Governing Council at its eighth session.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

B

Monitoring of transboundary transmission of air pollutants

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 64 (IV) of 13 April 1976,

Noting that the regional programme for monitoring and evaluation of the long-range transport of air pollutants was launched in January 1978 under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe, in co-operation with the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting further that the first phase of this programme will be completed by the end of 1980 and that proposals for the next phase are now under preparation,

Recognizing that this programme constitutes an important regional contribution to the Global Environment Monitoring System,

1. Requests the Executive Director to take appropriate measures, including financial support, to ensure the continued co-operation of the United Nations Environment Programme with the regional programme for monitoring and evaluation of the long-range transport of air pollutants up to 1983;

2. Decides, in view of the catalytic role of the United Nations Environment Programme, to review the Programme's possible co-operation with the regional programme after 1983 at its eleventh session.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

C

International Referral System

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind the development priorities of States and the need to make governmental decision-making bodies aware of environmental problems,

Recognizing the role of information in environmental management,

Recalling the conclusions of the study of the needs of users, 35/

Having considered the difficulties encountered by States in establishing their national focal points for the International Referral System,

Bearing in mind the human and material resources required for the operation of the national focal points,

35/ UNEP/GC.7/9.

1. Invites Governments of States members of the International Referral System:

(a) To strengthen their support for their national focal points;

(b) To intensify their efforts to promote the use of the System through co-ordination at the national level;

2. Urges the Executive Director, within the resources available to the Environment Fund:

(a) To continue the programme of periodic regional and international meetings of national focal points;

(b) To strengthen the programme of national seminars designed to make decision-making bodies and planners aware of environmental problems, with the co-operation of United Nations Environment Programme/International Referral System experts or consultants, with a view to increasing the use of the System;

(c) To provide national focal points, at their request, with effective assistance to enable them to fulfil their role effectively.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

D

Climate and the environment

The Governing Council,

Noting that the World Climate Programme initiated by the World Meteorological Organization will provide new knowledge of the climate system that will assist decision-makers in formulating rational policy alternatives related to climate-sensitive activities,

Considering that the climate impact studies of the World Climate Programme and the environmental assessments of the United Nations Environment Programme are complementary,

1. Requests the Executive Director to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General and the eighth Congress of the World Meteorological Organization the willingness of the United Nations Environment Programme to collaborate with the World Meteorological Organization and other organizations concerned with the World Climate Programme in the implementation of the subprogramme for the study of the impacts of climate on human activities, and, if so requested by the World Meteorological Organization, to assume, within the availability of funds, responsibility for the implementation of this subprogramme under the over-all co-ordination of the World Meteorological Organization;

2. Further requests the Executive Director, in accordance with the details of the resulting agreement, to develop a plan of action for implementing the agreement for consideration by the Governing Council at its eighth session.

E

Activities relating to carbon dioxide

The Governing Council,

Aware that the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide can affect the earth's climate and may produce environmental and societal consequences,

Noting that the emerging World Climate Programme of the World Meteorological Organization will include studies on the impact of carbon dioxide on climate, on society and on the environment,

Aware that the International Council of Scientific Unions is conducting a relevant study on global biogeochemical cycles in terms of the interrelationships controlling changes in carbon dioxide concentrations,

Recognizing the need for updated information as a basis for decision-making,

Requests the Executive Director to consult with the World Meteorological Organization and the International Council of Scientific Unions concerning the development of the plan of action on carbon dioxide as proposed in the programme document, and concerning mechanisms and procedures for conducting reviews and research and other activities relating to carbon dioxide, and to report on the results to the Governing Council at its eighth session.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

7/5. Health of people and of the environment

The Governing Council,

Recognizing that the problems of the health of people and of the environment, which are of high priority for developing countries, have to date not received sufficient attention within the environment programme,

1. Requests the Executive Director, in co-operation with competent organizations of the United Nations system, to continue to pay particular attention to the identification of problems and support needs in developing countries in the following areas:

- (a) Sanitation;
- (b) Disposal and treatment of domestic and industrial waste;
- (c) Vector-borne disease control, in particular by biological means;

2. Further requests the Executive Director to study how to strengthen the capabilities of these countries in formulating and implementing training programmes in these areas and to report on the study to the Governing Council at its eighth session.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

7/6. Terrestrial ecosystems

A

Tropical woodlands and forest ecosystems

The Governing Council,

Considering the undeniable environmental and economic importance of forest resources to the social and economic life of the populations of humid tropical regions,

Recognizing the growing worldwide concern about the degradation and rapid disappearance of the earth's forest cover resulting from the irrational exploitation of tropical forest and woodlands ecosystems,

Deploring the adverse social, economic and environmental impacts which are projected to intensify in the future,

Reaffirming the right of States to exercise permanent sovereignty over natural resources in their territories, and their primary responsibility for environmental protection therein, and recognizing the major role of existing regional mechanisms in this field, and the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in assisting States, upon request, as appropriate,

1. Reaffirms that humid tropical forest ecosystems constitute a priority concern of the United Nations Environment Programme;
2. Appeals to United Nations bodies and other international organizations concerned by the problem to assist Governments and promote intensified international co-operation with a view to finding appropriate solutions;
3. Decides that the United Nations Environment Programme should be involved in such efforts, in view of the many dimensions of the problem and the catalytic and co-ordinating role of the Programme in matters of worldwide environmental concern;
4. Requests the Executive Director:
 - (a) In close consultation and full co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other appropriate international organizations and Governments, taking into account provisions set forth at the regional level and action derived therefrom, to develop proposals for an integrated programme of activities for conservation and the wise utilization of tropical forests;
 - (b) For this purpose, to convene a meeting of experts, to include programme and resource managers from international, governmental and non-governmental organizations, developed and developing countries, to decide, taking into account points raised during the seventh session of the Governing Council, on the division of labour and responsibility;
 - (c) To report on the results of the meeting to the Governing Council at its eighth session;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to ensure that the current activities on humid tropical forests and woodlands are fully reviewed and co-ordinated with a view to identifying and supporting additional complementary activities.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

B

Soils policy

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 6/5 C of 24 May 1978 on soils policy,

Recalling also that the United Nations Conference on Desertification, in its decisions and Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, placed primary emphasis on the prevention of the process of desertification,

Recalling further that the report of the Executive Director on the environment programme, 36/ submitted to the Council at its seventh session, stresses the fact that "although a great number of activities around the world are undertaken to prevent soil degradation and soil loss, they are often not well co-ordinated and appear quite insufficient, considering the vastness of the problems of soil degradation and soil loss" and states that one of the urgent needs in relation to soils is for the "identification of the most important elements of an integrated soils policy, particularly for developing countries",

1. Requests the Executive Director to convene, in 1980, a high-level group of experts for the purpose of identifying and defining the most important legal, scientific, technical, cultural and institutional elements of a soils policy, to preserve soils from degradation;

2. Decides that in the fulfillment of its catalytic and co-ordinating role, the United Nations Environment Programme should ensure the co-operation, in the work of the group of experts, of international organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Society of Soil Sciences, and of the intergovernmental organizations and scientific bodies concerned;

3. Requests the Executive Director to inform the Governing Council, at its eighth session, of the progress of the work of the group of experts.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

36/ UNEP/GC.7/7, paras. 81 and 84.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
of Wild Fauna and Flora

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind the profound significance of wildlife to human survival and the fact that many species are threatened by extinction through international trade,

Recognizing that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is directed towards ensuring the survival of wildlife throughout the world and that such wildlife knows no political boundaries,

Noting with satisfaction that 51 States are now Parties to the Convention,

Aware that the ultimate effectiveness of the Convention depends on its universal application,

1. Urges that those States Members of the United Nations which have not done so should ratify or accede to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora at the earliest possible opportunity, and until they become Parties should act in the spirit of the Convention;
2. Urges States that have ratified the Convention to take the necessary measures in order to ensure its effective implementation, in so far as they have not done so;
3. Requests the Executive Director to transmit the present decision to all States Members of the United Nations system.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

7/7. Environment and development activities

A

Environment and development

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the importance of the development taking place in the developing countries and the implications of action taken both in the urban and in the rural environment,

Requests the Executive Director, in co-operation with the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to promote and contribute to the setting up of

studies of the environmental impact of socio-economic activities in the context of an integrated physical planning policy.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

B

Cost-benefit analysis

The Governing Council

1. Welcomes the initiative of the Executive Director in convening an intergovernmental expert group meeting on the evaluation of costs and benefits of environmental protection measures;
2. Notes with satisfaction the report of the intergovernmental expert group meeting; 37/
3. Considers that the pursuance of the cost-benefit analysis undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme is an exercise of major importance for all countries, requiring a sufficient period of preparation and implementation and adequate financial resources for its proper conduct;
4. Endorses the programme of action for the classification and categorization of existing case studies as proposed by the Executive Director for the first phase of the exercise and as approved by the expert group at its meeting on 9 and 10 April 1979;
5. Urges Governments to provide the Executive Director with available case studies, particularly those which show new ideas and techniques of analysis, and which also cover new areas;
6. Requests the Executive Director to keep the Governing Council informed regularly of the progress of work in the field of cost-benefit analysis.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

7/8. Regional seas: Mediterranean Action Plan

The Governing Council,

Considering the importance of the Mediterranean Action Plan for the protection of the environment and the rational management of the resources of the region,

Considering further that the experience gained in the Mediterranean and the activities to be carried out under the Mediterranean Action Plan will be very useful in the establishment of projects for other regional seas,

Recalling its decision 6/7 B of 24 May 1978,

Noting resolution 1 adopted by the Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States held at Geneva in February 1979,

Mindful of the efforts made by the coastal States to implement the Mediterranean Action Plan,

Considering its decision 7/14 D of 3 May 1979 relating to the establishment of a Regional Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution,

1. Requests the Executive Director to maintain, for the biennium 1980-1981, the commitment of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Mediterranean Action Plan and to consider, as part of the next medium-term plan, continuing the Programme's participation in programme expenditures, subject to availability of resources;

2. Invites the Executive Director to strengthen the Mediterranean Action Plan's existing Co-ordination Unit in order to ensure the continuity of the Programme and establish the necessary co-ordination between the regional seas programme activity centre and this Co-ordination Unit.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

7/9. Energy

The Governing Council,

Concerned about the future prospects of energy resources available to the developing countries,

Concerned also by the steady revaluation of conventional energy resources,

Conscious of the adverse environmental consequences associated with the use of different conventional energy sources,

Noting the intentions of the Executive Director as contained in his report on the environment programme 38/ and the progress made so far in the implementation of the energy programme of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling its decisions 1 (I) of 22 June 1973, paragraph 12 (g), 8 (II) of 22 March 1974, paragraph 6, 29 (III) of 2 May 1975, paragraph 9 (f), 34 (III) of 2 May 1975, 47 (IV) of 14 April 1976 and 60 (IV) of 13 April 1976 on the subject,

1. Urges the Executive Director to promote more activities in this area, particularly those related to the development of renewable energy resources, energy conservation measures and the development of efficient technologies for the production and use of energy;

38/ UNEP/GC.7/7, paras. 131-137, and Corr.1.

2. Further urges the Executive Director to keep a balance in the support of the Environment Fund to activities in the area of energy between "development of renewable energy resources" and "environmental impacts of energy development and use", and to consider the merit of establishing two different budget sub-lines for this purpose;

3. Urges the Executive Director to give serious consideration to the need to increase the allocations substantially in this budget line in future programme budget proposals and in the meantime to allocate substantial resources to support activities in this area when such resources became available;

4. Further urges the Executive Director, within the resources available to the Environment Fund, to initiate more pilot projects and more training programmes in this area and to explore the possibilities of assisting the developing countries in obtaining bilateral and multilateral assistance for the realization of their energy needs.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

7/10. Education and training

A

International Centre for Training and Education
in Environmental Sciences

The Governing Council,

Mindful of the importance of environmental training and education for the management of the environment,

Considering that the activities carried out by the International Centre for Training and Education in Environmental Sciences for Spanish-speaking countries have helped to meet the environmental training and education needs of the Latin American countries and Spain,

Recognizing the support of Latin American Governments for the Centre and their interest in contributing to its effective functioning,

1. Requests the Executive Director to take appropriate measures, including financial support, at a level commensurate with the resources available to the Environment Fund, to ensure that the co-operation of the United Nations Environment Programme continues with the International Centre for Training and Education in Environmental Sciences through the end of 1981;

2. Urges that an appropriate mechanism for ensuring consultation and co-operation with Latin American countries be immediately established within the Centre by the Executive Director, in co-operation with the Government of Spain, to enable the Centre to meet more effectively the environmental training needs of the countries concerned;

3. Decides to review at its ninth session the possible co-operation of the Programme with the Centre after 1981.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

B

Promotion of environmental education and training

The Governing Council,

Considering that the strengthening of environmental education and in particular, of post-graduate environmental training will be of benefit to the environmental management which the United Nations Environment Programme seeks to promote,

Recognizing that the Latin American region has many institutions that in one way or another are carrying out high-level environmental training activities,

Mindful of the need to establish a system or integrated network of institutions that carry out high-level environmental training activities,

Requests the Executive Director to consult with the Governments of Latin American countries for the establishment of a system or integrated network of existing institutions in Latin America that carry out high-level environmental training activities so that they may work together and combine their resources in providing environmental training and education; to this end, account should be taken of institutions already established for the region, such as the International Centre for Training and Education in Environmental Sciences.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

7/11. Environmental law

The Governing Council,

Noting General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

Noting also General Assembly resolution 33/87 of 15 December 1978,

Bearing in mind its decisions 35 (III) of 2 May 1975, 66 (IV) of 18 April 1976, 91 (V) of 25 May 1977 and 6/14 of 24 May 1978,

Noting the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, 39/

39/ UNEP/GC.7/8; see also A/34/296, annex I.

Noting the report of the Executive Director on the status of work of the Working Group of Experts on Environmental Law, 40/

1. Expresses the hope that the General Assembly, at its thirty-fourth session, will take note of the report on the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Natural Resources Shared by Two or More States, adopt the 15 draft principles on the guidance of States in their interrelations in respect of shared natural resources and request States to respect the principles in their inter-State relations;

2. Requests the Executive Director to recommend to the Working Group of Experts on Environmental Law that it:

(a) Make every effort to conclude, at the earliest date possible, its study of the legal aspects of off-shore mining and drilling carried out within the limits of national jurisdiction, including the provision of guidelines where appropriate;

(b) Prepare a list of priority subject areas in the field of international law related to the protection of the environment, bearing in mind inter alia the subjects mentioned in goal 20 for 1982, the list prepared by the Group itself and the topics recommended by the Executive Director to the Group at its first session;

(c) Meet at shorter intervals and at an adequate level of expertise;

(d) Consider ways and methods for its future work in furthering the development of environmental law, and in this connexion consider inter alia the establishment of specialized subgroups;

3. Requests the Executive Director and Governments with legal experts participating in the work in this field to ensure that all necessary technical studies are made prior to meetings of legal experts, so that such experts can sharply focus on the legal questions involved;

4. Requests the Executive Director to submit a report on progress to the Governing Council at its eighth session;

5. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit, together with his report on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, document UNEP/GC/INFORMATION/5/Supplement 2 to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session; 41/

6. Further requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the Working Group on Environmental Law, to procure the co-operation of institutions, specialized in international law, and universities to study priority areas selected by the Group of Experts on Environmental Law.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

40/ UNEP/GC.7/Add.I, annex.

41/ See A/34/296, annex II.

7/12. Regional programming initiatives (Asia)

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 88 D (V) and 90 (V) of 25 May 1977 and 6/10 of 24 May 1978, entitled respectively "Regional seas programme: Asia", "Supporting measures: Education and training" and "Regional programmes and programming: Asia",

Welcoming the actions taken by the Executive Director towards implementing these decisions,

Noting the need for further progress in their implementation,

Aware of the steps and initiatives taken by many countries, severally and jointly, in formulating programmes, proposals and projects in this regard under the major priority areas relevant to them,

Considering the increased interest in and search for approaches manifested by member countries for incorporating environmental planning in development planning, consonant with the global environmental programme,

1. Welcomes the various activities undertaken by the countries to ensure inclusion of environmental considerations in national development, as well as to develop sound environment projects and programmes;

2. Invites the Executive Director to assist and support, as before, the member countries in their efforts concerning priority issues and programmes that relate to the environment;

3. Urges the Executive Director to carry forward further the process of implementation of the above-mentioned decisions;

4. Requests to this end that adequate financial support be extended by the Environment Fund to the regional initiatives of the member countries.

10th meeting
3 May 1979

7/13. Action to combat desertification

A

Special account to finance the implementation of
the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The Governing Council,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the establishment and operation of the special account to combat desertification, 42/

Noting General Assembly resolution 33/89 of 15 December 1978, with regard to the establishment and operation of a special account for financing the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

1. Expresses its satisfaction to the Executive Director on the follow-up action towards the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;
2. Calls upon Governments to consider contributing generously to the special account to combat desertification, taking into consideration the voluntary nature of this account;
3. Authorizes the Executive Director to follow up with Governments on contributions to the special account.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

B

Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat
Desertification, with special reference to the
Sudano-Sahelian region

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 33/88 and 33/89 of 15 December 1978 and 33/170 of 20 December 1978 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/37 of 21 July 1978,

Recalling further its decision 6/11 of 24 May 1978 and decision 25/10 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, dated 27 June 1978,

Having examined the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 43/

42/ A/33/117.

43/ UNEP/GC/7/10 and Add.1.

1. Notes the actions taken by Governments, the United Nations Environment Programme and other members of the United Nations system for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;
2. Notes the establishment of the Desertification Unit in the Programme Bureau of the United Nations Environment Programme;
3. Endorses the proposed role of the interagency Working Group on Desertification;
4. Calls upon donor countries to actively participate in the work of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 33/89 of 15 December 1978, and approves the proposals of the Executive Director for dealing with the projects to be presented to the Group;
5. Calls upon Governments to take into account in implementing the Plan of Action the views expressed in paragraph 65 of the report of the Executive Director;
6. Notes with satisfaction chapter II of the Executive Director's report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;
7. Approves the actions taken with respect to institutional arrangements in the Sudano-Sahelian region;
8. Endorses the modalities of the joint venture of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme in connexion with the responsibilities of the United Nations Sahelian Office, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, to co-ordinate the efforts of the United Nations system and to assist the 15 countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;
9. Authorizes the Executive Director to continue to contribute to the United Nations Sahelian Office, after consultations with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the Environment Programme's share of the administrative and operational costs of the joint venture, within the available resources of the Environment Fund;
10. Further authorizes the Executive Director to update chapter II of his report referred to in paragraph 6 above in the light of any major developments in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region and to submit it, on behalf of the Governing Council, to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, as the report requested by the Assembly in resolution 33/88 of 15 December 1978.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat
Desertification in the African region

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 44/

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977 approving the report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, which contains the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Mindful of the fact that the phenomenon of desertification is widespread in Africa and of the need for action in favour of all the countries affected by it,

Mindful also of the fact that the promotion of appropriate international, regional and subregional co-operation constitutes an additional impetus to the mobilization of the efforts and resources needed to speed up the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Bearing in mind the efforts made by various African intergovernmental organizations, in particular the Organization of African Unity, to prepare a hydrogeological map of Africa,

1. Requests the Executive Director to pursue, within available resources, the activities being carried out in the region by expanding those integrated pilot activities that would benefit all the affected countries;
2. Authorizes the Executive Director, in co-operation with the specialized agencies of the United Nations, to provide financial assistance for the execution of the regional project of the Organization of African Unity for the preparation of a hydrogeological map of Africa;
3. Requests the Executive Director, in co-operation with the United Nations specialized agencies, to co-operate closely with the secretariats of the Organization of African Unity and other African intergovernmental organizations in taking joint action to deepen awareness of the problem of desertification and mobilize efforts and resources to combat desertification in the African region.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

44/ Ibid.

7/14. Matters relating to the Environment Fund

A

Implementation of the Fund programme

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Fund programme in 1978; 45/

2. Notes the action taken by the Executive Director in response to Governing Council decision 6/13 B of 24 May 1978, and the information presented in the Executive Director's note on project and programme evaluation. 46/

10th meeting
3 May 1979

B

Financial reports and accounts

The Governing Council

I

1. Takes note of and approves the financial report and accounts of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium ended 31 December 1977, 47/ and takes note of the comments of the Executive Director 48/ on the report of the Board of Auditors and the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as set forth in its report;

2. Requests the Executive Director to take the comments of the Board of Auditors fully into account in the management of the Environment Fund;

3. Takes note of and approves the financial report and accounts of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium ended 31 December 1977; 49/

45/ UNEP/GC.7/12 and Add.1.

46/ UNEP/GC.7/13 and Corr.1.

47/ UNEP/GC.6/L.3, sect. 1 and annex.

48/ UNEP/GC.7/L.1.

49/ UNEP/GC.6/L.2.

II

1. Takes note of the unaudited financial report and interim accounts (unaudited) of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the first year of the biennium 1978-1979 as at 31 December 1978; 50/

2. Notes that the United Nations Board of Auditors need not submit a formal audit report to the General Assembly, and hence to the Governing Council, to cover the first year of the biennium.

10th meeting
3 May 1979

C

Management of the Environment Fund

The Governing Council,

Having considered the note by the Executive Director on the management of the Environment Fund, 51/

Desirous of ensuring the attainment of the target for the approved medium-term plan,

Noting with regret that about half the States Members of the United Nations have not yet contributed to the Environment Fund,

Concerned at the problem of utilization of non-convertible currencies,

1. Expresses its satisfaction to new contributors and to Governments that have increased their contributions;

2. Appeals to Governments that are either not contributing to the Environment Fund or not contributing an amount commensurate with their means to contribute according to their abilities, to Governments that have maintained their previous levels of contributions to consider increasing their contributions, and to Governments that have contributed in the past to contribute in the future with the same promptness and sympathetic consideration;

3. Further appeals to Governments that make contributions in non-convertible currency to take the necessary steps to resolve the problem of utilization of such currencies by converting as much as possible of their contribution to convertible currencies in line with rule 203.4 of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. Invites Governments to pay their contributions to the Fund to the extent possible during the first quarter of the year;

50/ UNEP/GC.7/L.2.

51/ UNEP/GC.7/14/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

5. Approves the 1979 appropriation level of \$43.8 million, including the Fund programme reserve of \$1 million approved by the Governing Council in decision 98 B (V) of 24 May 1977, and the corresponding apportionment of the appropriation as follows:

(in United States dollars)

<u>Fund programme activities</u>	<u>1979</u>
01 Human settlements, human health	5,200,000
03 Support	7,700,000
04 Environment and development	3,100,000
05 Oceans	5,000,000
07 Energy	800,000
10 Environmental management including environmental law	1,400,000
11 Terrestrial ecosystems	9,000,000
12 Natural disasters	400,000
13 Earthwatch, including the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals	6,500,000
16 Environmental data	700,000
17 Arid lands (including desertification)	3,000,000
Total Fund programme activities	42,800,000
Fund programme reserve	1,000,000
TOTAL	<u>43,800,000</u>

6. Authorizes the Executive Director to enter into new commitments, according to the availability of new resources, up to the level of appropriations contained in Governing Council decision 6/13 D of 24 May 1978;

7. Approves the total appropriations for 1980 and 1981 52/ and notes that the biennium 1980-1981 is to be considered as a single financial period;

8. Endorses the Executive Director's intention to fix the cash carry-over at year end at a minimum of \$2 million in convertible currency, in addition to the financial reserve, and decides to reconsider this level at the end of the biennium 1980-1981, in the light of experience;

9. Authorizes forward commitments of \$11 million for the biennium 1982-1983;

52/ UNEP/GC.7/14/Rev.1, table 5.

10. Reconfirms the Executive Director's authority to adjust apportionments by 20 per cent in each budget line within the over-all appropriation for the biennium 1980-1981;

11. Approves the level of the financial reserve for 1979 at \$4.2 million, and for 1980 and 1981 at \$3.3 million and \$3.4 million, respectively;

12. Approves a Fund programme reserve of \$1 million for each of the two years 1980 and 1981.

10th meeting
3 May 1979

D

Establishment of a Trust Fund for the Protection
of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution

The Governing Council,

Noting with satisfaction the entry into force of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols,

Noting further the results of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States and First Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Geneva, 5 to 10 February 1979) and in particular the adopted work programme and related budget for the biennium 1979-1980,

Recalling its decision 6/7 B of 24 May 1978, whereby it called upon the Mediterranean coastal States to take increasing financial responsibility for the secretariat costs of the Mediterranean Action Plan,

Welcoming the contribution of \$3.28 million pledged by the Mediterranean coastal States and the European Economic Community for the Regional Trust Fund to contribute towards the costs of the Mediterranean Action Plan in the biennium 1979-1980,

Noting also the agreement of the Mediterranean coastal States and the European Economic Community to entrust the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme temporarily with the administration of the Trust Fund,

1. Approves, under chapter II, article V, of the general procedures governing the operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, the establishment of the Regional Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, for a two-year period, within the framework of the Environment Fund;

2. Agrees with the intention of the Executive Director to assume responsibility for administering the Regional Trust Fund on a temporary basis for the two-year period, and to contribute \$1.64 million from the Environment Fund to support the Mediterranean Action Plan in the biennium 1979-1980;

3. Decides to review the Trust Fund arrangements at its ninth session in 1981.

10th meeting
3 May 1979

E

Establishment of a Trust Fund for the Convention on International
Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 86 C (V) of 25 May 1977 and 6/5 D of 24 May 1978,

Noting the request made by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora for the establishment of a trust fund to provide financial support for the aims of the Convention,

Welcoming resolution 2.1 of the Conference, according to which the Parties will contribute towards the proposed trust fund for each of the years 1980 and 1981,

Noting also the agreement of the Parties to entrust the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme with the administration of the trust fund for an initial period of two years beginning 1 January 1980 and ending 31 December 1981,

1. Approves, under chapter II, article V, of the general procedures governing the operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, the establishment of the Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, for a two-year period, within the framework of the Environment Fund;

2. Agrees with the intention of the Executive Director to assume responsibility for administering the Trust Fund for the two-year period, and to supplement the resources made available for the Trust Fund by the Parties to the Convention in an amount not to exceed 50 per cent of the contribution of \$700,000 approved by the Governing Council for the biennium 1978-1979, to be provided by the Environment Fund;

3. Urges the Parties to deposit their contributions in the Trust Fund as soon as possible.

10th meeting
3 May 1979

F

Programme and programme support costs, 1978-1979

The Governing Council,

Having considered the performance report of the Executive Director on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1978-1979 and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 53/

1. Notes the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Executive Director's report and the Executive Director's statement that there was insufficient opportunity for full dialogue between himself and the Advisory Committee on the proposals contained in his report;
2. Notes the Executive Director's intention to continue to administer the programme and programme support costs budget with the utmost economy and restraint consistent with the effective implementation of the programme, bearing in mind the availability of resources;
3. Notes the reports of the Executive Director submitted, in response to Governing Council decision 6/13 E, in paragraphs 8 and 19 of his performance report;
4. Notes the redeployment of posts between the executive direction and management, environment programmes, and regional and liaison subprogrammes;
5. Approves the reclassification of three P-4 posts to P-5 and the establishment of four local level General Service posts in the regional and liaison offices subprogramme, effective 1 July 1979;
6. Concurs with the establishment of the Desertification Unit and decides to establish on a permanent basis one D-1 and one P-4 post in addition to the P-5 post approved by the Governing Council in its decision 6/13 E of 24 May 1978, further approves the establishment of four local level posts effective 1 July 1979, and decides to establish on an ad interim basis two additional P-4 posts to be reviewed by the Council after two years;
7. Decides that all United Nations Environment Programme temporary assistance in the Desertification Unit will be terminated on 31 December 1979;
8. Approves the conversion from a temporary assistance basis to an established basis of 64 local level General Service posts in the Administration and common services and Conference and language services subprogrammes, effective 1 July 1979;
9. Requests the Executive Director to convey to the Secretary-General the Governing Council's recommendation that he prepare, jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the United Nations Development Programme and all other United Nations organizations expected to occupy premises at the permanent site at Gigiri, a report on the common services which may be established there;

53/ UNEP/GC.7/16 and L.3, respectively.

10. Approves the performance report and the revised appropriation level of \$15,390,800 on the subprogramme and object of expenditure pattern;

11. Requests the Executive Director to establish a long-term staffing policy and present it to the Governing Council at its next session;

12. Further requests the Executive Director to express his views to the Governing Council at its eighth session on the subject of the optimum proportion of programme and programme support costs to the costs of Fund programme activities.

10th meeting
3 May 1979

G

Programme and programme support costs budget
for the biennium 1980-1981

The Governing Council,

Having considered the estimates of the Executive Director for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1980-1981 54/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 55/

1. Notes with concern the increase in the estimates for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1980-1981 in relation to the level of Fund programme activities;

2. Approves, without prejudice to any decision the General Assembly may take on the matter at its thirty-fourth session, the proposal of the Executive Director to recommend to the General Assembly the transfer of one principal officer (D-1), one senior officer (P-5), one first officer (P-4) and three second officer posts (P-3), together with six supporting local level posts, from the programme and programme support costs budget of the Environment Fund to section 13 A of the United Nations regular budget, effective 1 January 1980:

3. Approves the establishment of one second officer (P-3) translator post together with one local level post in the subprogrammes for conference and language services and administration and common services, respectively;

4. Approves the proposed reduction of the real level of provision for temporary assistance, consultancy services and official travel;

5. Further approves:

(a) An appropriation of \$19,084,900 for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1980-1981 on the subprogramme and object of expenditure pattern;

54/ UNEP/GC.7/17 and Corr.1.

55/ UNEP/GC.7/L.4.

(b) An increased appropriation for the programme and programme support costs budget equivalent to the cost of any of the posts referred to in paragraph 2 above which are not approved by the General Assembly for 1980;

6. Requests the Executive Director to reflect any proposed increases referred to in paragraph 5 (b) above in his performance report for 1980-1981;

7. Further requests the Executive Director to administer the appropriation for the programme and programme support costs budget 1980-1981 with the utmost economy and restraint consistent with the effective implementation of the programme, bearing in mind the availability of resources, and to report to the Governing Council at its ninth session on the implementation of the programme and programme support costs budget during the first year of the biennium 1980-1981.

10th meeting
3 May 1979

H

United Nations accommodation at Nairobi

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on United Nations accommodation at Nairobi: 56/

2. Requests the Executive Director and the Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Office of General Services, to consider the comments made thereon by delegations during the seventh session of the Governing Council.

10th meeting
3 May 1979

7/15. Relationships with non-governmental organizations

The Governing Council

1. Expresses its 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. Calls upon the Executive Director and member States further to encourage the creation and growth of non-governmental organizations and their activities in the field of the environment.

11th meeting
3 May 1979

56/ UNEP/GC.7/15.

Other decisions

Provisional agenda, date and place of the eighth session of the Governing Council

At the 10th plenary meeting of the session, on 3 May 1979, the Governing Council decided that, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules of procedure, its eighth session would be held at Nairobi from 16 to 29 April 1980, to be preceded by informal consultations during the morning of 16 April 1980. At the 9th meeting, on 2 May 1979, the Council approved the following provisional agenda for the eighth session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Agenda and organization of the work of the session.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Executive Director's report and state of the environment:
 - (a) Introductory report of the Executive Director (including resolutions and decisions of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly and resolutions of the first and second sessions of the Economic and Social Council in 1979 of relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme);
 - (b) State of the environment report.
5. Co-ordination questions:
 - (a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination relating to co-ordination in the field of the environment;
 - (b) Other co-ordination questions (including co-ordination with the Commission on Human Settlements and the system-wide medium-term environment programme).
6. Programme matters.
7. Co-ordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.
8. The Environment Fund:
 - (a) Report on the implementation of the Fund programme in 1979;
 - (b) Financial report and accounts (unaudited) for the biennium 1978-1979 ended 31 December 1979;
 - (c) Management of the Fund of UNEP;
 - (d) Administrative and budgetary matters.

9. Provisional agenda, date and place of the ninth session of the Governing Council.
10. Other business.
11. Report of the Governing Council to the General Assembly.
12. Closure of the session.

Intersessional informal consultations with Governments

At the 9th plenary meeting of the session, on 2 May 1979, the Governing Council, recalling its decisions 23 (III) of 2 May 1975 and 104 (V) of 24 May 1977, decided that the informal consultations with Governments between the seventh and eighth sessions of the Governing Council would be held at Nairobi for up to five days during the first half of December 1979 to exchange views on the content and presentation of programme and policy questions and to consider any other items on which the Executive Director may wish to report, and requested the Executive Director to provide for such intersessional informal consultations in his budget estimates.

ANNEX II

Statement by the Deputy Executive Director concerning the financial implications of Governing Council decision 7/8 entitled "Regional seas: Mediterranean Action Plan"

The Deputy Executive Director said that the decision had no financial implications above what was foreseen in the documentation for the 1980-1981 biennium. That assertion rested on very precise understandings.

In his introductory statement to the Council, the Executive Director had said:

"At this time last year I reported to you the progress made in the Mediterranean, and mentioned some financial problems which had not been resolved. Now I am glad to report that those problems have been solved and that the Action Plan has entered a new phase. The Governments concerned and EEC approved in Geneva in February last a programme of work for 1979-1980 and its budget of \$6.4 million. Half of this sum will be paid by Governments through a Mediterranean Trust Fund which is presented to you for approval. The balance will be met half by UNEP and half, in different forms of services, by other United Nations agencies."

Both operative paragraphs of the proposal before the Committee must be read in conjunction with the report of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States (UNEP/IG.14/9) which met in Geneva from 5 to 10 February 1979 and agreed on a programme and budget for continuation of the Mediterranean Action Plan for the years 1979-1980, as well as on the need to establish the Mediterranean Trust Fund. The period covered was 1979-1980. For that period, it had been agreed that the half to be covered by Government contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund would be \$3,240,000 annually, and that UNEP's quarter would be up to \$800,000 per year (with the remaining quarter to be covered by other organizations of the United Nations system). As had been reported to the Intergovernmental Review Meeting, UNEP's commitments in 1979 at that time already totalled some \$1,118,500, and the extra \$300,000 above an average of \$800,000 per year must be regarded as an "advance" from the Environment Fund which was to be refunded to the Environment Fund after the Mediterranean Trust Fund was approved by the Governing Council, and contributions are received. The matter was addressed in paragraph 83 of the document UNEP/IG.14/9. Naturally, UNEP did not wish to interrupt or slow down the pace of the Mediterranean Action Plan, and since the time of the February meeting additional commitments had therefore been made where necessary.

Operative paragraph 1 of the draft decision was concerned only with what were referred to as "programme expenditures". As the report of the Mediterranean Meeting made clear (para. 83) "with regard to UNEP's future contribution to programme costs after 1979, ... the level of funding would be dependent upon the financial resources made available to the Environment Fund of UNEP". In the documents before the Governing Council, the secretariat had foreseen for 1979-1980, the two years on which agreement was reached by the Mediterranean States, a total commitment of up to \$1,600,000. Faced with over-all financial constraints, the

Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director had considered how best to maintain a certain level of activities for the Mediterranean Action Plan while reducing the total Fund programme for 1980-1981 by 13 per cent. Because of the importance of the Mediterranean activity, and the need to assure that there would be no loss of momentum at the very time when the Governments of the region were carrying out the Council's previous desire to assume greater responsibility, they had decided to project Fund requirements at the same level for 1981. However, that could not be costed with real exactitude because the programme and budget for 1981 and subsequent years would not be addressed by the Mediterranean States before their next regular meeting in early 1981. Naturally, the Environment Fund could not be obligated now to any predetermined percentage without knowing the total of the programme and budget for the Mediterranean Action Plan beyond the presently approved period, 1979-1980, and without knowing the resources available in the Fund. Therefore, subject to the availability of resources in the Trust Fund and in the Environment Fund, operative paragraph 1 of the draft decision could be implemented without additional or unforeseen financial expenses.

Operative paragraph 2 was concerned with administrative, rather than programme, expenses. Governing Council decision 6/7 B was directly applicable, since it required UNEP to reduce its contribution to zero "at the earliest possible date, and no later than the end of 1983". The February meeting had accepted that decision, and suggestions as to how to phase the reduction of UNEP's contribution to secretariat costs to zero in 1984 were currently being considered. The February meeting had examined the past and future staffing of the Mediterranean Co-ordinating Unit, as set forth in the Executive Director's budget proposals, which were issued in November 1978 after taking into account the views of experts from the Mediterranean Governments who were convened in Geneva in September 1978. Thus, that administrative area had received particularly close scrutiny before and during the February meeting. The Executive Director's budget proposal (UNEP/IG.14/8) stated (paras. 34 and 35) that for 1979, when it was clear the Mediterranean Unit would remain at Geneva, co-located with UNEP's Geneva Liaison and Regional Office and other UNEP units located in Geneva, no additional staffing would be required beyond one P-2 data processor. That was permitted by the cost-sharing and other arrangements that had been in existence for three years, under which the Mediterranean Unit consisted of only two full-time Professionals, while drawing major substantive support from other Geneva-based units. The February meeting had decided that the permanent location of the Mediterranean Co-ordinating Unit should eventually be in a Mediterranean country, and that the final decision should be taken at the next regular meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States in 1981. Thus, instead of re-locating the existing unit in 1980, as had earlier been considered, the meeting decided, as a provisional measure, that the Mediterranean Unit should remain at Geneva. The consequences for staffing were foreseen in the budget proposals before the February meeting, which stated (para. 38) that if the Unit remained in Geneva in 1980 certain administrative posts would not be required - since that service was provided by the UNEP liaison and Regional Office - and the possible need for substantive Professional posts would depend on the location of the regional seas programme activity centre: i.e. if the centre was moved from Geneva, advance recruitment of the substantive posts in the Mediterranean Unit would be required. The Mediterranean meeting had also agreed on a number of statements calling for economies including "the importance of keeping administrative costs to a minimum", which was stressed by all delegations (para. 78), on the need for "economies effected throughout the programme by the timing of its implementation" (para. 79), and on the need for "flexibility" in all aspects of the programme, together with a call on the Executive Director "to

economize on administrative costs" (para. 88). Taking all those considerations into account, the secretariat intended to "strengthen" the existing Unit, as the Executive Director was invited to do in operative paragraph 2 of the draft decision, with maximum economy and subject - as always - to the availability of resources, especially in the Mediterranean Trust Fund which, it was hoped, would soon be established by the Secretary-General as a result of a separate decision of the Council. Budgetary provisions had been made for the recruitment in 1979 of a data processor if funds became available, but that and other staffing questions for 1980 would be examined in the light of many factors, including availability of funds and the location of other units in Geneva. On that understanding, no unforeseen expenses were called for in operative paragraph 2.

ANNEX III

Documents before the Governing Council at its seventh session

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
UNEP/GC.7/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/GC.7/2 and Corr.1	Annotated provisional agenda and organization of the work of the session
UNEP/GC.7/3 and Corr.1	Introductory report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.7/3/Add.1 and Corr.1	Introductory statement by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.7/4 and Corr.1	The state of the environment: selected topics - 1979
UNEP/GC.7/5	Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its seventh session
UNEP/GC.7/6	Co-ordination questions: System-wide medium-term environment programme
UNEP/GC.7/7 and Corr.1 and 3 and Add.1	The environment programme
UNEP/GC.7/8	International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment
UNEP/GC.7/9	The users' needs and information delivery capabilities of INFOTERRA (formerly IRS)
UNEP/GC.7/10 and Add.1	Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification
UNEP/GC.7/11	Co-ordination with the Commission on Human Settlements
UNEP/GC.7/12 and Add.1	Report on the Implementation of the Fund programme in 1978
UNEP/GC.7/13 and Corr.1	Project and programme evaluation
UNEP/GC.7/14/Rev.1 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2	Management of the Environment Fund

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
UNEP/GC.7/15	United Nations accommodation at Nairobi
UNEP/GC.7/16	Performance report on the programme and programme support cost budget for the biennium 1978-1979
UNEP/GC.7/17 and Corr.1	Proposed budget for programme and programme support costs of the Environment Fund 1980-1981
UNEP/GC.7/18	Relationships with non-governmental organizations
UNEP/GC.INFORMATION/1/Rev.2 and Corr.1	Compendium of approved objectives, strategies, concentration areas and goals for 1982 for the environment programme.
UNEP/GC/INFORMATION/5/ Supplement 2	Register of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment
UNEP/GC/INFORMATION/6/Add.2 and Corr.1	Memorandum of Understanding on the environment aspects of natural disasters between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the World Food Council, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organization
UNEP/GC.7/INF.1	List of participants
UNEP/GC.7/L.1	Financial reports and audited accounts of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium ended 31 December 1977
UNEP/GC.7/L.2 and Corr.1	Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: Financial report and Interim accounts (unaudited) for the first year of the biennium 1978-1979 as at 31 December 1978

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
UNEP/GC.7/L.3	Performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1978-1979
UNEP/GC.7/L.4	Proposed budget for programme and programme support costs of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1980-1981
UNEP/GC.7/L.5 and Add.1 and 2	Draft report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GC.7/L.6 and Add.1-5	Report of Sessional Committee I
UNEP/GC.7/L.7 and Add.1 and 2	Report of Sessional Committee II
Background paper 1 (English only)	Earthwatch-related research, evaluation and review