

**UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

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**REPORT OF THE  
GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**on the work of its first special session**

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**14-18 March 1988**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-THIRD SESSION  
SUPPLEMENT No. 25 (A/43/25)



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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.**

[10 May 1988]

**REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL ON ITS FIRST SPECIAL SESSION\***  
(14-18 March 1988)

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\* The full report on the work of the session, containing, *inter alia*, chapters on the discussions in plenary meetings, has been distributed to Governments as document UNEP/GCSS.I/7 and Corr.1.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to Governing Council decision 14/4 of 18 June 1987 and General Assembly resolution 42/185 of 11 December 1987, the first special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 14 to 18 March 1988. The Council adopted the present report at the 7th meeting of the session, on 18 March 1988.

## CHAPTER I

### ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

#### A. Opening of the session

2. The first special session was opened by Mr. J. Illueca (Panama), President of the Council.

3. In his opening statement, the President reviewed some of the major events related to international co-operation in the field of the environment that had taken place since the fourteenth session of the Council and outlined the main tasks before the Council at its current session.

#### B. Attendance

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

Argentina	Indonesia	Syrian Arab Republic
Australia	Iraq	Thailand
Botswana	Japan	Tunisia
Brazil	Jordan	Turkey
Bulgaria	Kenya	Uganda
Burundi	Mauritania	Ukrainian Soviet
Canada	Mexico	Socialist Republic
Chile	Netherlands	Union of Soviet
China	Nigeria	Socialist Republics
Colombia	Oman	United Kingdom of
Czechoslovakia	Panama	Great Britain and
Denmark	Poland	Northern Ireland
France	Republic of Korea	United States of
Germany, Federal	Senegal	America
Republic of	Sri Lanka	Venezuela
Ghana	Swaziland	Yugoslavia
Greece	Sweden	Zaire
India	Switzerland	Zambia

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<sup>1/</sup> The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 93rd plenary meeting of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, on 10 December 1984, the 120th and 123rd plenary meetings of the fortieth session, held on 17 December 1985 and 28 April 1986, and the 98th plenary meeting of the forty-first session, held on 5 December 1986 (decisions 39/310, 40/316 and 41/310). At the 97th plenary meeting of its forty-second session, on 11 December 1987, the General Assembly decided to defer elections to the Governing Council until its forty-third session and to extend by one year the term of office of those States members of the Governing Council whose term would expire on 31 December 1987 (decision 42/448).

5. The following States Members of the United Nations but not members of the Governing Council were represented by observers:

Algeria	Malawi
Austria	Maldives
Bangladesh	Morocco
Belgium	Norway
Burkina Faso	Pakistan
Costa Rica	Peru
Côte d'Ivoire	Philippines
Democratic Kampuchea	Portugal
Djibouti	Rwanda
Egypt	Saudi Arabia
Ethiopia	Somalia
Finland	Spain
German Democratic Republic	Sudan
Guyana	Togo
Israel	United Republic of
Italy	Tanzania
Kuwait	Yemen
Lesotho	Zimbabwe
Liberia	

6. The following State not a Member of the United Nations was represented by an observer:

Holy See

7. The following United Nations bodies and Secretariat units were represented:

United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations Information Centre, Nairobi  
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)  
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
The World Food Programme (WFP)

8. The following specialized agencies or other organizations in the United Nations system were represented:

International Labour Organisation (ILO)  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
World Health Organisation (WHO)  
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was also represented.

9. The following other intergovernmental organisations were represented:

Commission of the European Communities  
Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA)  
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)  
Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)  
League of Arab States (LAS)  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)  
Organisation of African Unity (OAU)

10. In addition, 12 international non-governmental organisations were represented by observers.

11. The following other organisations were represented by observers:

African National Congress (ANC)  
Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)  
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC)  
South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO)

#### C. Officers

12. According to rule 18 of the rules of procedure, "at the commencement of the first meeting of its regular session, the Governing Council shall elect a President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur from among its members". Rule 19 provides that the President, Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur shall hold office until their successors are elected (i.e., at the 1st meeting of the next regular session). Accordingly, the following officers, elected at the fourteenth regular session, continued to serve in their respective capacities at the first special session:

President: Mr. J. Illueca (Panama)

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Z. R. Ansari (India)  
Mr. C. J. Butale (Botswana)  
Ms. D. Protsenko (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

Rapporteur: Mr. P. Sutter (Switzerland)

13. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council was informed that Mr. Ansari (India), Vice-President of the Council, had apologised for being unable to attend the session and had nominated Mrs. M. Bhalla, head of the Indian delegation at the session, to perform his functions in the Bureau.

#### D. Credentials

14. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Bureau examined the credentials of the delegations attending the fourteenth session. The Bureau found the credentials in order and so reported to the Council, which approved the Bureau's report at the 7th meeting of the session, on 18 March.

## **E. Agenda**

15. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council adopted the following agenda on the basis of the revised provisional agenda by the Executive Director (UNEP/GCSS.I/1/Re.1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. System-wide medium-term environment programme (1990-1995) and the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 1990-1995.
5. Proposed revisions to chapter 12 ("Environment") of the current United Nations medium-term plan.
6. Adoption of the report.
7. Closure of the session.

16. The spokesman of the Latin American and Caribbean Group said that his group had no difficulty with the three topics proposed under items 4 and 5 of the agenda, but felt that since the Governing Council at its fourteenth session and the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-second session had approved the items "System-wide medium-term environment programme (1990-1995)" and "Revisions to the global programme on the environment of the extended United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989" for the current special session, those two topics should be discussed first, after which the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 1990-1995 could be considered, within the time available at the session.

## **F. Organization of the work of the session**

17. At the opening meeting of the session, the Governing Council considered and approved the organization of the work of the session in the light of the suggestions made by the secretariat in the annotations to the revised provisional agenda and the timetable of meetings suggested by the Executive Director (UNEP/GCSS.I/1/Rev.1/Add.1).

18. The Council also decided to establish an informal, open-ended drafting group under the chairmanship of Ms. D. Protsenk (Ukrainian SSR), with a core membership of two representatives from each regional group, in order to reach agreement on revisions or amendments to the system-wide medium-term environment programme (UNEP/GCSS.I/2 and Corr.1 and 2), the proposed medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GCSS.I/3 and Corr.1), and the proposed revisions to chapter 12 ("Environment") of the extended United Nations medium term plan for the period 1984-1989 (UNEP/GCSS.I/4, annex), and in order to seek consensus on draft decisions before they were formally considered by the Council.

19. At the 6th meeting of the session, the Council decided that, in view of the heavy work-load before the drafting group, it would establish another open-ended drafting group, under the chairmanship of the President of the Council, to perform the second function entrusted to the drafting group that had been established at the opening meeting, i.e. to seek consensus on draft decisions before their submission to plenary for formal consideration. The drafting set up at the 1st meeting would continue to seek agreement on revisions or amendments to the system-wide medium-term environment programme, the proposed medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the proposed revisions to chapter 12 of the United Nations medium-term plan.

G. Introductory statement by the Executive Director

20. At the opening meeting of the session, the Executive Director made an introductory statement focusing on the main tasks before the Council in the light of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187, in which the Assembly endorsed the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and welcomed the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development entitled Our Common Future. 2/ The full text of the Executive Director's statement is contained in document UNEP/GCSS.I/6/Add.3 and Corr.1.

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2/ A/42/427, annex.

## CHAPTER II

### MATTERS REQUIRING THE SPECIAL ATTENTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND/OR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

#### A. Action with respect to resolutions of the General Assembly

21. In paragraph 1 of its decision SS.I/1 of 18 March 1988, the Governing Council resolved to exercise fully the role expected of it with respect to environmental activities within the United Nations system, the follow-up of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond (see General Assembly resolution 42/186, annex), the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, 2/ and the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, 3/ in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

22. The Council also decided, in paragraph 2 of the same decision, to include in the provisional agenda of its fifteenth session an item entitled "Follow-up of the relevant resolutions of the forty-second and forty-third sessions of the General Assembly".

23. In paragraph 3 of the same decision, the Council requested the Executive Director, using as appropriate the mechanism of the Designated Officials for Environmental Matters, to provide the Council at its fifteenth session with the reports called for in paragraphs 10 and 18 of General Assembly resolution 42/187. In paragraph 4 of the same decision, the Council further requested the Executive Director to submit to it at its fifteenth session, for consideration and transmittal as appropriate to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report containing proposed comments by the Governing Council on the reports referred to in paragraph 3 of the decision and on any other matters concerning progress on sustainable development that fell within the Council's mandate.

#### B. Environmental considerations in the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade

24. In paragraph 5 of its decision SS.I/1, the Governing Council emphasized its view that sustainable and environmentally sound development should be one of the main objectives of the new international development strategy, taking into account the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and also the analysis and recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, and invited the Executive Director to contribute fully and actively in the process of development of the strategy.

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2/ The system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, as amended and approved by the Governing Council, is contained in document UNEP/GCSS.I/7/Add.1.

**C. System-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995**

25. By paragraph 3 of decision SS.I/3 of 18 March 1988, the Governing Council approved the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, as submitted by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (UNEP/GCSS.I/2 and Corr.1 and 2) and with the amendments proposed by the Bureau, subject to the preparation by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination of a revision of the programme to be presented to the Council at its sixteenth session with a view, *inter alia*, to reflecting more closely the structure and recommendations of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development in the light of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987.

26. By paragraph 11 of the same decision, the Council brought the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 to the attention of the General Assembly. 3/

27. By paragraph 14 of the decision, the Council invited the governing bodies of the organisations and programmes of the United Nations system to take fully into account their objectives, plans and programme budgets the relevant aspects of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, while in paragraph 15 it urged the organizations of the United Nations system to co-operate closely in the implementation of the programme, giving priority to developing countries in each of the programmes areas.

**D. Revisions to the global programme on the environment of the extended United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989**

28. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 42/185 of 11 December 1987, the Governing Council at its first special session considered appropriate changes to the global programme on the environment of the extended United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 and, by paragraph 1 of its decision SS.I/7 of 18 March 1988, took note of the proposed revisions submitted by the Executive Director (UNEP/GCSS.I/4, annex).

29. In accordance with paragraph 2 of the same decision, the comments of the Council on the proposed revisions are deemed to be the principles and objectives of the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme, as approved by the Council in its decision SS.I/6 of 18 March 1988.

30. By paragraph 3 of decision SS.I/7, the Council requested the Executive Director to transmit the above-mentioned comments, as well as the views expressed by delegations during the Council's deliberations on the proposed revisions, through the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination to the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

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3/ The system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, as amended and approved by the Governing Council, is contained in document UNEP/GCSS.I/7/Add.1.

**E. Co-ordination between the United Nations medium-term plan and the system-wide medium-term environment programme**

31. In paragraph 12 of its decision SS.I/3 on the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, the Governing Council expressed its concern about the need to maintain maximum possible co-ordination between the United Nations medium-term plan and the system-wide medium-term environment programme, in the light of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which gives the United Nations Environment Programme a co-ordinating role on environmental policies and programmes within the United Nations system, and resolution 42/215 of 21 December 1987, by which the Assembly extended the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 to include 1990-1991.

32. In the same vein, by paragraph 4 of decision SS.I/7 on proposed revisions to the global programme on the environment of the extended United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, the Governing Council recommended to the General Assembly that the global programme on the environment of the United Nations medium-term plan beginning in 1992 should be structured along the lines of the system-wide medium-term environment programme to ensure uniformity of content and to facilitate co-ordination of the environmental activities being undertaken by the United Nations system in the light of Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987.

**F. Support for the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation**

33. By section I of its decision SS.I/5 of 18 March 1988, the Governing Council urged the governing bodies of the organisations of the United Nations system to give priority to the provision of financial and technical assistance for the effective implementation of each of the programme areas of the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation. 4/

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4/ Report of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on the work of its first session (UNEP/AEC.1/2), annex I, resolution 1/1, sect. I.

## CHAPTER III

### ADOPTION OF DECISIONS\*

34. At the 7th meeting of the session, on 18 March, the Council had before it a number of draft decisions submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GCSS.I/L.29/Rev.1; UNEP/GCSS.I/L.34; UNEP/GCSS.I/L.35/Rev.1; UNEP/GCSS.I/L.36; UNEP/GCSS.I/L.37; UNEP/GCSS.I/L.38; UNEP/GCSS.I/L.39; and UNEP/GCSS.I/L.40). The Council adopted all the draft decisions by consensus, with the comments and amendments indicated below.

#### Programme policy and implementation (decision SS.I/1)

35. A draft decision on this subject was submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GCSS.I/L.29/Rev.1).

36. On the proposal of the representative of Brazil, supported by the representative of Mexico, the Council decided to change the words "in response to" in paragraph 1 (b) of the draft to "approved by the" and to change the same words in paragraph 1 (c) to "welcomed by".

37. On the proposal of the representative of Chile, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Council also decided to delete paragraph 6 of the draft decision.

38. The draft decision, as orally amended by the representatives of Chile and Brazil, was adopted by consensus.

39. The Executive Director stated that it was his understanding that, by deleting paragraph 6 of the draft decision, the Governing Council was indicating that the Environment Fund should be used to finance requirements, including preparations for sessions of the Council, that should normally be covered by the regular budget of the United Nations.

#### The 1990 state-of-the-environment report (decision SS.I/2)

40. A draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GCSS.I/L.34) was adopted by consensus and without comment.

#### System-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 (decision SS.I/3)

41. A draft decision on this subject was submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GCSS.I/L.39).

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\* For the text of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its first special session, see the annex to the present report.

42. On the proposal of the representative of France, supported by the representative of Chile, the Council decided to change the words "having considered further" in the third preambular paragraph of the draft to "having noted".

43. On the proposal of the representative of Brazil, supported by the representative of France and Chile, the Council also decided to amend paragraph 13 of the draft by changing the words "recommends for the consideration of Governments" to "takes note of" and by replacing the words "and welcomes them as useful guidelines" by the words "as presented by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination".

44. The draft decision, as orally amended by the representatives of Brazil and of France, was adopted by consensus.

Regional and subregional programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean (decision SS.I/4)

45. A draft decision in this subject (UNEP/GCSS.I/L.36) was adopted by consensus and without comment.

Support for the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation (decision SS.I/5)

46. Two draft decisions on this subject (UNEP/GCSS.I/L.37 and L.38) were adopted by consensus.

47. The representative of Japan said that, while he welcomed the consensus achieved on the draft decisions, it should be pointed out that the countries of Asia, as well as those of Africa, ought to be considered in the provision of priority assistance.

Medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 1990-1995 (decision SS.I/6)

48. A draft decision on this subject was submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GCSS.I/L.40).

49. On the proposal of the representative of France, supported by the representative of Brazil, the Council decided to amend the second preambular paragraph of the draft by changing the words "having considered also" to "having taken note of".

50. On the proposal of the representative of the United States of America, the Council decided to amend paragraph 3 of the draft by changing the words "with reference made to" to "in the light of" in the penultimate line of the paragraph.

51. On the proposal of the representative of France, supported by the representative of Brazil, the Council further decided to delete the second clause of paragraph 6 of the draft.

52. The draft decision, as orally amended by the representatives of the United States and France, was adopted by consensus.

Proposed revisions to the global programme on the environment of the extended United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 (decision SS.I/7)

53. A draft decision on this subject was submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GCSS.I/L.35/Rev.1).

54. The President announced that the Bureau wished to revise paragraph 2 of the draft by inserting the words "the principles and objectives of" before the words "the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme" in the first line of the paragraph.

55. The draft decision, as orally revised, was adopted by consensus.

## ANNEX

Decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its first  
special session

Decision number	Title	Date of adoption	Page
SS.I/1	Programme policy and implementation	18 March 1988	14
SS.I/2	The 1990 state-of-the-environment report	18 March 1988	15
SS.I/3	System-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995	18 March 1988	16
SS.I/4	Regional and subregional programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean	18 March 1988	19
SS.I/5	Support for the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation	18 March 1988	20
SS.I/6	Medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 1990-1995	18 March 1988	21
SS.I/7	Proposed revisions to the global programme on the environment of the extended United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989	18 March 1988	22

SS.I/1. Programme policy and implementation

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972,

Recalling also the resolutions adopted by the Council at its session of a special character in 1982, 1/

Having considered General Assembly resolutions 42/184 of 11 December 1987, on international co-operation in the field of the environment, 42/185 of 11 December 1987, on the biennial cycle of sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, 42/186 of 11 December 1987, on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, 42/187 of 11 December 1987, on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, and 42/193 of 11 December 1987, on preparation of the new international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade,

Having also considered the introductory report of the Executive Director, 2/ his introductory statement 3/ and the annual report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, 4/

Bearing in mind its decision SS.I.3 of 18 March 1980, on the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995,

1. Resolves to exercise fully the role expected of it:

(a) With respect to environmental activities within the the United Nations system, as set forth by the General Assembly in resolution 2997 (XXVII) and by the Governing Council in section VI, paragraph 3 of resolution I of 18 May 1982, adopted at its session of a special character;

(b) With respect to the follow-up of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/186;

(c) With respect to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/187;

(d) With respect to the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, in accordance with section I, paragraph 2 (b), of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII);

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25), part one, annex I.

2/ UNEP/GCSS.I/6 and Corr.1 and 2.

3/ UNEP/GCSS.I/6/Add.3 and Corr.1.

4/ UNEP/GCSS.I/5.

2. Decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifteenth session an item entitled "Follow-up of the relevant resolutions of the forty-second and forty-third sessions of the General Assembly";

3. Requests the Executive Director, using as appropriate the mechanism of the Designated Officials for Environmental Matters, to provide the Council at its fifteenth session with the following documents:

(a) Reports made available to the Council by the governing bodies of organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in accordance with paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 42/187, on progress made in their organizations towards sustainable development;

(b) The report prepared by the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 42/187, on efforts by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to pursue sustainable development;

4. Further requests the Executive Director to submit to it at its fifteenth session, for consideration and transmittal as appropriate to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report containing proposed comments by the Governing Council on the reports referred to in paragraph 3 above and on any other matters concerning progress on sustainable development that fall within the Council's mandate;

5. Emphasizes its view that sustainable and environmentally sound development should be one of the main objectives of the new international development strategy, taking into account the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, 5/ and also the analysis and recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, 6/ and invites the Executive Director to contribute fully and actively in the process of development of the strategy and to keep the Council and its Committee of Permanent Representatives informed of developments.

7th meeting  
18 March 1988

SS.I/2. The 1990 state-of-the-environment report

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 13/9 D of 24 May 1985, in which it decided, inter alia, that state-of-the-environment reports should, in general, alternate in successive years between a report on economic and social aspects of the environment and a report on environmental data and assessment,

5/ General Assembly resolution 42/186, annex.

6/ A/42/427, annex.

Recalling further its decision 14/9 B of 18 June 1987, in which it decided, inter alia, that the 1989 state-of-the-environment report should be an update of the 1987 report on the state of the world environment,

Having considered the proposal of the Executive Director 7/ that the topic for the state-of-the-environment report for 1990 should be "Children and the environment",

1. Decides that the topic of the state-of-the-environment report for 1990 should be "Children and the environment";
2. Requests the Executive Director to prepare the report in close co-operation with the United Nations Children's Fund;
3. Further requests the Executive Director to submit a detailed outline of the report to it at its fifteenth session so that delegations may comment upon it.

7th meeting  
18 March 1988

SS.I/3. System-wide medium-term environment programme  
for the period 1990-1995

The Governing Council,

Having considered the proposed system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, 8/ submitted by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987,

Having noted the proposed goals that could be achieved by Governments by 1995 with the support of the United Nations system, 9/

Having also considered the 1987 report by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination 4/ and the introductory report of the Executive Director, 2/

Recognizing, in the light of previous experience, that the system-wide medium-term environment programme is a valuable mechanism for the co-ordination of environmental activities within the United Nations system,

Convinced that system-wide medium-term environment programmes should particularly take into account the statements contained in the Environmental Perspective that environmental issues are closely intertwined with development

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7/ UNEP/GCSS.I/6 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 28.

8/ UNEP/GCSS.I/2 and Corr.1 and 2.

9/ UNEP/GCSS.I/2/Add.1.

policies and practices, that consequently environmental goals and actions need to be defined in relation to development objectives and policies and that, although it is important to tackle immediate environmental problems, anticipatory and preventive policies are the most effective and economical in achieving environmentally sound development, 10/

Convinced further that the reports which the governing bodies of the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system are invited to submit not later than 1989, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/187, on progress made in their organizations towards sustainable development, would make a valuable contribution to the further development of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the 1987 report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;
2. Expresses its appreciation to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for its efforts in formulating the proposed system-wide medium-wide environment programme, which reflects a collective effort of the United Nations system;
3. Approves the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, as submitted by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and with the amendments proposed by the Bureau, 11/ and subject to paragraph 4 below;
4. Decides that at its fifteenth session it will provide the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination with its views as policy guidance for a revision of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 to be presented to the Council at its sixteenth session, with a view, inter alia, to reflecting more closely the structure and recommendations of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development 6/ in the light of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187, and with a view to identifying the cross-references between sources of environmental problems and subject-matter environmental sectors;
5. Requests the Executive Director to seek in 1988 the views of Governments on revisions to be made to the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 and to report to it at its fifteenth session on those views;
6. Invites the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to prepare, for submission to the Council at its sixteenth session, a revised system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, reflecting the guidance of the Governing Council and the endeavours of the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system towards environmentally sound and sustainable development, endeavours which are to be described in the reports to the General Assembly called for by the Assembly in its resolutions 42/186 and 42/187;

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10/ General Assembly resolution 42/186, annex, paras. 3 (e) and (f).

11/ UNEP/GCSS.I/L.31 and Corr.1 and Add.1-5.

7. Decides to add a new sub-item (c) to the present item 6 of the provisional agenda of its fifteenth session, 12/ to be entitled "Guidelines for the revision of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995";

8. Decides to recommend to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination that it should arrange for an evaluation of the first system-wide medium-term environment programme (1984-1989) for submission to the Council at its sixteenth session in the light of the preparatory work for a revision of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995;

9. Requests the Executive Director to bring the approved system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 to the attention of all Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

10. Calls upon Governments, intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations to give their full support and co-operation to the implementation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme;

11. Brings the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 to the attention of the General Assembly;

12. Expresses its concern to the General Assembly about the need to maintain maximum possible co-ordination between the United Nations medium-term plan and the system-wide medium-term environment programme, in the light of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which gives the United Nations Environment Programme a co-ordinating role on environmental policies and programmes within the United Nations system, and resolution 42/215 of 21 December 1987, by which the General Assembly extended the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 to include 1990-1991;

13. Takes note of the proposed goals that could be achieved by Governments by 1995 with the support of the United Nations system, 9/ as presented by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

14. Invites the governing bodies of the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to take fully into account in their objectives, plans and programme budgets the relevant aspects of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995;

15. Urges the organizations of the United Nations system to co-operate closely in the implementation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme, giving priority to developing countries in the implementation of the strategies in each of the programme areas;

16. Notes the decision of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination that the Designated Officials for Environmental Matters should have responsibility for

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12/ See the report of the Governing Council on the work of its fourteenth session (Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/42/25 and Corr.1)), annex, other decisions, p. 95.

conducting a qualitative evaluation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme; 13/

17. Endorses the need expressed by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination 14/ to develop suitable monitoring procedures for the system-wide medium-term environment programme;

18. Requests the Executive Director to continue to pursue active consultations with the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the further development and effective implementation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme;

19. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its regular sessions on progress in the implementation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995.

7th meeting  
18 March 1988

SS.I/4. Regional and subregional programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 13/21 of 23 May 1985, 13/32 of 24 May 1985 and 14/21 of 18 June 1987,

Taking into account the results of the Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific, held at Bogotá in April 1987, and of the XIX Regular Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, held at Quito in December 1987,

Noting that the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 1990-1995 15/ includes among its objectives the continuation and enhancement of regional and interregional co-operation in the management of marine regions,

Bearing in mind that the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 8/ also includes among its objectives the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of regional marine environments and the achievement of the sustainable use of the resources of marine regions,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Environment Programme for its involvement with and support for the Action Plan for the Protection of the

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13/ UNEP/GCSS.I/5, para. 22.

14/ UNEP/GCSS.I/2 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 400.

15/ UNEP/GCSS.I/3 and Corr.1.

Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific and the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme;

2. **Decides** that in developing the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 1990-1995, priority should continue to be given, within the oceans and coastal areas programme, to the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific and the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme;

3. **Requests** the Executive Director to continue providing technical and financial support, within available resources, for activities under the South-East Pacific Action Plan and the Caribbean Action Plan.

7th meeting  
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SS.I/5. Support for the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation

The Governing Council,

**Recalling** decision 14/15 C of 17 June 1987, which highlighted the need for the Executive Director to mobilize more funds through United Nations organizations and other funding agencies for the effective implementation of the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation of 1985 16/ and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, 17/

**Noting** that the ultimate goal of the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 is the achievement of sustainable development,

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**Urges** the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system to give priority to the provision of financial and technical assistance for the effective implementation of each of the programme areas of the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation;

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1. **Notes** with appreciation the United Nations Environment Programme's involvement in and support for the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation;

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16/ Report of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on the work of its first session (UNEP/AEC.1/2), annex I, resolution 1/1, sect. I.

17/ General Assembly resolution S-13/2, annex.

2. Urges the Executive Director to continue to give priority to the implementation of the Cairo Programme in the next three programme budgets of the United Nations Environment Programme.

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SS.I/6. Medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 1990-1995

The Governing Council,

Having considered the proposed medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 1990-1995, 15/ submitted by the Executive Director,

Having taken note of the targets for the United Nations Environment Programme proposed by the Executive Director, 18/

Recognizing that the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 1990-1995 outlines the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as an actor and partner in the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, 8/

1. Approves the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 1990-1995 with the amendments proposed by the Bureau; 19/

2. Requests the Executive Director to use the medium-term plan as a guide for formulating the next three programme budgets of the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to paragraph 3 below;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to reflect more thoroughly in future programme budgets of the Environment Programme and in the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, following its mid-term review in 1992, the recommendations contained in the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond 5/ and the views expressed in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development 6/ in the light of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987;

4. Invites the Executive Director to revise the medium-term plan for the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 1990-1995 in parallel with the revision of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, as approved by the Council in its decision SS.I/3 of 18 March 1988, for consideration by the Council at its sixteenth session;

5. Further requests the Executive Director to prepare an explanatory note, preferably in chart form, indicating the cross-references between the "problems

18/ UNEP/GCSS.I/3/Add.1

19/ UNEP/GCSS.I/L.41.

addressed" and "strategies" of the medium-term plan for the United Nations Environment Programme and the proposed targets for the Environment Programme and to circulate this note prior to the fifteenth session of the Council;

6. Considers the targets proposed for the United Nations Environment Programme for 1995 to be management guidelines for monitoring the performance of the secretariat of the Environment Programme.

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SS.I/7. Proposed revisions to the global programme on the environment of the extended United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989

The Governing Council,

Having considered the Executive Director's proposed revisions to the global programme on the environment of the extended United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, 20/

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 42/215 of 21 December 1987, in which the General Assembly decided to extend the current United Nations medium-term plan for a further two-year period,

1. Takes note of the proposed revisions to the global programme on the environment of the extended United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989;

2. Considers that the principles and objectives of the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 1990-1995, as approved by the Council in its decision SS.I/6 of 18 March 1988, constitute the comments of the Council on the proposed revisions to the global programme on the environment of the extended United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989;

3. Requests the Executive Director to forward the comments of the Governing Council, as well as the views expressed by delegations during the Council's deliberations on the proposed revisions, through the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination, to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

4. Recommends to the General Assembly that the global programme on the environment of the United Nations medium-term plan beginning in 1992 be structured along the lines of the system-wide medium-term environment programme to ensure uniformity of content and to facilitate co-ordination of the environmental activities being undertaken by the United Nations system in the light of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987.

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20/ UNEP/GCSS.I/4, annex.