

UNITED
NATIONS

EP



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



UNEP

Distr.
LIMITED

UNEP(DEPI)/RS.9/Inf.5
3 October 2007

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**Ninth Global Meeting of the Regional Seas
Conventions and Action Plans**
Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 29-31 October 2007

**COMPILATION OF UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL DECISIONS PERTAINING TO
THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
AT ITS REGULAR SESSIONS

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION – Nairobi Kenya, 5-9 February 2007

24/16: Updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme

A. Freshwater

The Governing Council.

Recalling its decisions 22/2 of 7 February 2003 and 23/2 of 25 February 2005 regarding the United Nations Environment Programme water policy and strategy,

Taking into account the policy directions for water-related activities of the United Nations Environment Programme as set out in, among other sources, relevant Governing Council decisions, the Millennium Declaration,³⁵ the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development³⁶ the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development pertaining to water, sanitation and human settlements and the 2005 World Summit Outcome³⁷ as it pertains to water and sanitation,

Taking into account the comments made by Governments on the draft water policy and strategy submitted to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its ninth special session,

Also taking into account the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building³⁸ and its relevance to the design and implementation of all United Nations Environment Programme activities,

Noting with appreciation the achievements made by the United Nations Environment Programme in implementing the updated water policy and strategy as described in the report of the Executive Director³⁹

1. Adopts the water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 2007–2012 contained in the annex to the present decision, to be implemented with interested countries upon their request;

2. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To use the water policy and strategy as a framework and guidance to direct the United Nations Environment Programme's programme of work in the field of water through the year 2012;

³⁵ General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

³⁶ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

³⁷ General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 6 September 2005.

³⁸ UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

³⁹ UNEP/GC/24/4 and Add.1.

- (b) To intensify collaborative activities with Governments, relevant organizations, United Nations agencies and other development partners and to intensify partnerships with civil society, including the private sector, to implement the water policy and strategy;
 - (c) To provide support upon request to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for implementation of the water policy and strategy within the framework of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;
 - (d) To increase support to developing countries for integrated water resource management in collaboration with, among others, UN-Water, the Global Water Partnership and regional and national institutions;
 - (e) To report on the implementation of the water policy and strategy to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fifth session;
3. Invites Governments in a position to do so to provide new and additional resources necessary for the implementation of the water policy and strategy.

B. Coasts, oceans and islands

The Governing Council.

Recalling its decisions 22/2 of 7 February 2003 and 23/2 of 25 February 2005 regarding the United Nations Environment Programme water policy and strategy, in particular paragraphs 11 and 12 of decision 23/2, welcoming the generous offer of the Government of the People's Republic of China to host in 2006 the second intergovernmental review meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based activities,

Noting with appreciation the important contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme, the regional seas conventions and action plans, the Global Environment Facility and other international and regional institutions in catalyzing the implementation of the Global Programme of Action while recognizing the financial constraints on such implementation, particularly at the national level, and the consequent need for resource mobilization and support,

Acknowledging the successful results and achievements of the Global Programme of Action in the period 2002–2006, particularly at the national level, and the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action as well as the successful results and achievements of the participants at the second intergovernmental review meeting of the Global Programme of Action, which took place in Beijing from 16 to 20 October 2006, including the valuable contributions made by the participants in the multi-stakeholder partnership workshops during the meeting,

Welcoming the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme Pacific sub regional strategy as noted in the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of decision 23/5 of 25 February 2005 on small island developing States,⁴⁰

1. Endorses the Beijing Declaration on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities⁴¹ and takes note of the outcomes of the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the

⁴⁰ UNEP/GC/24/5.

⁴¹ UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/7, annex V.

Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities as detailed in the report of that meeting⁴²

2. Adopts the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office programme of work for the period 2007–2011, as endorsed by the second Intergovernmental Review Meeting⁴³

3. Invites international and regional financial institutions, in particular the Global Environment Facility, and calls upon donor countries to continue to support the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and to consider, as appropriate, increasing their contributions and technical assistance for building the capacity of developing countries, particularly small island developing States, to mainstream the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in national development programmes and budgets;

4. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Netherlands for its continuing support in hosting the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office in the Hague and expresses special gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of China for its hosting of the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

⁴² UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/7.

⁴³ UNEP/GC/24/INF/18, annex and addenda.

22/1. Early warning, assessment and monitoring

I Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, and in particular section I, paragraphs 2 (a), (b), (d) and (e) thereof,

Recalling also relevant Governing Council decisions pertaining to data, information, monitoring, assessment and early warning, (including 18/27 C of 26 May 1995, the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,²⁰ 20/1 of 4 February 1999, 20/4 of 4 February 1999, and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration²¹), and in particular decision SS.VII/I on international environmental governance and on capacity-building, paragraphs 8 (e), 11 (h) (i) and (ii), 24 and 31 thereof,

Noting the provisions contained in paragraphs 108 to 112 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development on the role of science, technology and assessment as a basis for decision-making on environment for sustainable development,

Commending the Executive Director on the production of the third Global Environment Outlook report, following the full participatory, consultative approach as requested in Governing Council decision 20/1 of 4 February 1999, and its publication in May 2002, prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Recognizing the benefits of South-South and North-South cooperation, partnerships and networking inherent in the integrated environmental assessment process of the United Nations Environment Programme and the enhanced capacities of national and regional institutions to carry out assessments and supportive data management as a result of the capacity-building undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme,

Underscoring the importance of international cooperation among the organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, Governments, the scientific community, non-governmental organizations, private enterprises and appropriate national institutions in exchanging information and scientific knowledge on environmental matters, inter alia, through the United Nations system-wide Earthwatch,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme by improving its ability to monitor and assess global environmental change, including the establishment of an intergovernmental panel on global environmental change (UNEP/GC.22/4/Add.I),

A Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme

²⁰ Governing Council decision 19/1, annex.

²¹ Governing Council decision SS.V/I, annex

1. Reiterates that further consideration should be given to strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme by improving its ability to monitor and assess global environmental change;
2. Invites Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and scientific institutions to submit to the Executive Director by a date specified by him their views on the following questions:
 - (a) What are the likely gaps and types of assessment needs with respect to the environment and environmental change?
 - (b) How are the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations currently meeting those assessment needs?
 - (c) What options exist with respect to meeting any unfulfilled needs that fall within the role and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme?
3. Further invites those providing views to address, inter alia, the following considerations:
 - (a) Scientific credibility, saliency, legitimacy and relevance in the assessment processes;
 - (b) Interaction between science and policy development;
 - (c) The role of existing institutions;
 - (d) Possible options including strengthening existing institutions and mechanisms and the establishment of an intergovernmental panel on global environmental change;
 - (e) Links and sectoral integration;
 - (f) Duplication, cooperation, complementarity and added value to the work of other assessment processes, international agencies and the multilateral environmental agreements;
 - (g) Cost-effectiveness and efficiency; and
 - (h) Developing country participation and capacity-building;
4. Requests the Executive Director to make submissions publicly available and to prepare a synthesis report for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eighth special session;
5. Further requests the Executive Director, following the issuance of the report, to facilitate an intergovernmental consultation taking into account available funding, transparency, regional balance and adequate developing country participation, in preparation for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eighth special session.

B Early warning and assessment process of the United Nations Environment Programme

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue keeping under review the world environmental situation, and providing early warning on emerging environmental issues of wide international significance by:
 - (a) Producing annual global environment outlook statements on the environment, inter alia, highlighting significant environmental events and achievements during the year and raising awareness of emerging issues from scientific research and other sources;
 - (b) Preparing the comprehensive Global Environment Outlook report series, following the full participatory and consultative Global Environment Outlook approach, every five years, with the next report for 2007;

- (c) Supporting sub-global integrated environmental assessment processes, including the production of regional, subregional and national environment outlook reports, in partnership with relevant authorities and institutions;
 - (d) Providing early warnings of emerging threats of international significance;
 - (e) Supporting thematic assessments on emerging or cross-cutting issues;
 - (f) Cooperating with Governments and relevant organizations to develop up-to-date and harmonized integrated databases and indicators that provide the basis for early warning, monitoring and assessment;
 - (g) Promoting networking with relevant institutions to enhance the exchange and dissemination of environmental data and information, including through the use of information and communication technologies;
2. Urges Governments to provide additional funding for the strengthening of targeted capacity-building by the United Nations Environment Programme in integrated environmental assessment and related data, information and knowledge management, and the identification of emerging issues at global, regional and national levels.

II Global assessment of the state of the marine environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 21/13 of 9 February 2001, by which the Executive Director in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other appropriate United Nations organizations, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Regional Seas Programme, was requested to explore the feasibility of establishing a regular process for assessing the state of the marine environment, with active involvement by Governments and regional agreements, building on ongoing assessment programmes,

Noting that the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development²² called, in its paragraph 36 (b), for the establishment by 2004 of “a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments”,

Noting that the state of the marine environment is significantly affected by activities in coastal areas,

Welcoming the fact that outcomes of the consultations organized by the United Nations Environment Programme in response to Governing Council decision 21/13, in particular the consultative meetings held in Reykjavik and Bremen, Federal Republic of Germany, on 12 to 14 September 2001 and 18 to 20 March 2002 respectively, have contributed significantly to the target set out in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the decision of the General Assembly under its resolution 57/141 of 12 December 2002 on Oceans and the law of the sea, to establish “a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments”,

Further welcoming the request to the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with Member States, relevant organizations and agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Maritime

²² *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication Sales No. E.03.II.A.1) chap. I resolution 2, annex.

Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, other competent intergovernmental organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, “to prepare proposals on modalities for a regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, drawing, inter alia, upon the work of the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to Governing Council decision 21/13, and taking into account the recently completed review of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection, and to submit those proposals to the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly for its consideration and decision, including on the convening of a possible intergovernmental meeting”,

Considering the need to link science and policy-making and in that context to promote intergovernmental cooperation, mobilize the scientific community and foster inter-agency cooperation in support of a regular process for reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment,

Stressing that consideration should be given to the need to ensure that sustainable capacity-building in developing countries is established as an integrated part of the assessment process as identified in the consultation process,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the global assessment of the marine environment (UNEP/GC.22/2 and Add.5.),

1. Requests the Executive Director to make the necessary arrangements for the active participation and appropriate contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the preparatory process for the establishment of a regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment as called for in General Assembly resolution 57/141;
2. Calls on the Executive Director to identify existing United Nations Environment Programme marine assessment budgetary and programmatic resources that can be applied to support the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment;
3. Urges regional seas programmes and other regional seas agreements to participate and contribute as appropriate to the process called for in General Assembly resolution 57/141;
4. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Secretary-General in 2003 as well as to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eighth special session on the United Nations Environment Programme's contribution to the regular process called for in General Assembly resolution 57/141;
5. Authorizes the Executive Director to seek extra budgetary resources, including through the establishment of a trust fund, to support the participation of developing countries in a regular process for reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment;
6. Urges Governments to contribute to the trust fund, once established;
7. Calls upon Governments to focus particular attention on coastal areas in collaboration with appropriate regional institutions involved in the coastal areas.

III United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the longstanding relationship and cooperation on biodiversity information and assessment work between United Nations Environment Programme, the biodiversity-related conventions (particularly the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage) and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which was initially under tripartite United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Union -World Wide Fund for Nature sponsorship between 1988 and 2000,

Noting with satisfaction the successful integration of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre into the United Nations Environment Programme's biodiversity-related activities since the Centre's change of status in June 2000 to that of a specialist biodiversity information and assessment centre of the United Nations Environment Programme and the fact that the Centre derives the majority of its revenue from non-United Nations Environment Programme sources,

Supporting the Executive Director's policy of broadening the Centre's role to provide a range of biodiversity-related services to the United Nations Environment Programme, the biodiversity-related conventions and their constituent party States, and other bodies in the non-governmental and private sectors, and stressing the importance of partnerships and capacity-building of national biodiversity centres and networks,

Noting with approval the review by the Centre, the World Conservation Union-World Commission on Protected Areas and other stakeholders of the World Database on Protected Areas and of the process for maintaining and updating the United Nations List of National Parks and Protected Areas,

Agreeing that the United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution of 1959, subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in 1962, needs to be renewed and updated,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue to support the development of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, including its work in providing data and information of the highest quality and accessibility and interoperability, in cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and consistent with the need to monitor progress towards meeting biodiversity-related objectives set by the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;²²
 2. Requests the Executive Director, subject to availability of voluntary contributions, to establish a network of collaborating centres in developing countries to cooperate with the Centre and to assist them in undertaking relevant parts of their work programme;
 3. Endorses the strengthening of the World Database on Protected Areas, including linking it with other databases on biodiversity and ecology; establishment of a global consortium; and the strengthening of the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Conservation Union on global protected area issues through a specific memorandum of understanding;
 4. Requests the Executive Director, working in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to seek a renewed mandate for the United Nations list process from the Economic and Social Council/General Assembly that reflects the role of the United Nations Environment Programme and its agreement with the World Conservation Union on new partnership arrangements for the World Database on Protected Areas.
-

IV Post-conflict environmental assessments

The Governing Council,

Concerned about the adverse impacts of armed conflicts on the environment and eventually on human health,

Aware of the need to conduct rapid but reliable environmental assessments following conflicts, thereby ensuring the inclusion of environmental activities in the reconstruction phase,

Acknowledging that post-conflict environmental assessments, when made immediately after a conflict, assist in reducing the future risks for human health and the environment by giving correct data to the local population and to decision makers, by proposing action needed for clean-up, and by reducing uncertainty among the population regarding health risks from the polluted environment,

Noting with appreciation that the Executive Director has successfully launched several post-conflict environmental assessments since 1999, and that these were conducted in close cooperation with the local authorities and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system,

Noting that the post-conflict assessments by the United Nations Environment Programme to date have been fully funded by extrabudgetary voluntary contributions,

1. Welcomes the action taken by the Executive Director in the area of post-conflict environmental assessments, including the establishment of the Post-Conflict Assessment Unit;
2. Commends the role that the United Nations Environment Programme has played in undertaking post-conflict assessments, including its role in promoting clean-up of environmental hot spots, in supporting the environmental activities of Governments in post-conflict situations, in raising awareness of conflict-related environmental risks, and in integrating the post-conflict environmental activities as part of the United Nations humanitarian assistance and part of the reconstruction efforts to countries and regions;
3. Requests the Executive Director to further strengthen the ability of the United Nations Environment Programme to assess environmental impacts in post-conflict situations;
4. Calls upon Governments in a position to do so to support countries or regions in need of post-conflict environmental assessments;
5. Invites Governments and all other parties concerned, where appropriate, to provide the United Nations Environment Programme with such assistance as may be required in conducting post-conflict environmental assessments;
6. Requests the Executive Director to make the necessary arrangements in order to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct post-conflict environmental assessment at the request of the concerned State or States to be assessed as well as to report to the relevant United Nations bodies and commissions for further follow-up;
7. Requests the Executive Director to continue to inform Governments of current post-conflict environmental assessment activities and to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session.

V Environment in the occupied Palestinian territories

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 20/2 of February 1999, 21/16 of 9 February 2001 and SS.VII/7 of 15 February 2002 on the environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories,

Gravely concerned over the continuing deterioration and destruction of the environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director as contained in documents UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.6 and UNEP/GC.22/INF/31,

Noting that the Executive Director visited the area in July 2002 where he met with the two parties concerned and established a framework and the modalities of the desk study requested by the Governing Council,

Noting further that the Executive Director designated a team of experts from the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare the desk study outlining the state of the environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and identifying major areas of environmental damage requiring urgent attention,

1. Welcomes the desk study outlining the state of the environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories presented by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.22/INF/31), including the recommendations contained therein;
2. Expresses its appreciation to the team of experts for their invaluable efforts in the preparation of the desk study, and to the environmental authorities in the area for their constructive cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme;
3. Requests the Executive Director, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, to implement the recommendations of the desk study;
4. Also requests the Executive Director to make the United Nations Environment Programme available to act as a facilitator, and also an impartial moderator when requested by both parties, to assist in solving urgent environmental problems with a view to achieving common goals;
5. Further requests the Executive Director to continue coordinating the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the area, including:
 - (a) Facilitate identifying technical and financial solutions to implement the recommendations;
 - (b) Promote capacity-building programmes;
 - (c) Encourage technology transfer;
 - (d) Promote the participation of the Palestinian Authority in relevant meetings and processes of multilateral environmental agreements;
6. Calls upon Governments and international organizations to support the rehabilitation of the environment and reconstruction of damaged environmental infrastructure, and to thus assist the environmental authorities concerned in their efforts to address urgent environmental needs in the Occupied Palestinian Territories;
7. Invites all the parties concerned to cooperate with the Executive Director in the implementation of the present decision;
8. Requests the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session.

10th and 11th meetings

7 February 2003

22/2. Water

I Water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council.

Recalling its decision 21/11 of 9 February 2002 requesting the Executive Director to identify key policy issues for the environmental aspects of water arising from the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in line with the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, 23 the Malmö Ministerial Declaration²⁴ and the outcome of the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21²⁵ for the purpose of proposing options to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on actions taken within the framework of Governing Council decision 21/11 (UNEP/GC.22/INF/21) as well as a review by the Executive Director of key policy issues arising from the implementation of the water policy and strategy (UNEP/GC.22/INF/35),

Noting with appreciation the measures taken by the Executive Director to implement Governing Council decision 21/11,

Expressing its appreciation to the Executive Director for the progress made in the implementation of the Global International Waters Project, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, the Regional Seas Programme, water-related activities on water and sanitation of the International Environmental Technology Centre and those of the United Nations Environment Programme Collaborating Centre on Water and Environment, the new Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Quality Assessment Programme and action taken to implement Governing Council decision 21/13 of 9 February 2002 regarding the global assessment of the state of the marine environment,

Noting with appreciation the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme Collaborating Centre on Water and Environment in Copenhagen, and the comprehensive review leading to the adoption of a new business plan for the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Quality Assessment Programme based in Canada,

Recognizing the important role played by the United Nations Environment Programme in the comprehensive assessment of the water-related chapters of Agenda 21^{25a} as part of the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity initiative of the Secretary-General and the preparation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development²² which contains key issues being addressed by the United Nations Environment Programme within the overall framework of its water policy and strategy,

Recalling chapter IV of the Plan of Implementation on protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, in particular paragraphs 24 and 26 which highlight the importance of integrated water resources management and protection of ecosystems,

²³ Governing Council decision 19/1, annex.

²⁴ Governing Council decision SS.VII, annex.

²⁵ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, United Nations publication, Sales No.E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

Convinced that the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development has generated a new momentum for concrete actions, inter alia, in the field of water, to achieve the goal of sustainable development,

Having noted the measures proposed by the Executive Director contained in documents UNEP/GC.22/INF/35 and UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.3 for enhancing the focus of work of the United Nations Environment Programme on the environmental aspects of water in accordance with national needs and subject to Governments' requests,

1. Decides that the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, taking into account national priorities and in accordance with United Nations system-wide coordination processes aimed at further streamlining the United Nations water activities, should play an active role in the follow-up to the water-related outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular the World Summit's Plan of Implementation. In doing so, it should support collaboration among Governments upon their request and strengthen inter-agency partnerships;
2. Requests the Executive Director to take the necessary actions in furtherance of the continued implementation of the water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate and the priorities identified by the Governing Council and in line with the relevant chapters of Agenda 21 as well as the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
3. Urges the Executive Director to assist, upon request, the relevant regional bodies and national Governments to develop and implement regional and national strategies, plans and programmes with regard to integrated river basin, watershed and groundwater management when implementing a water policy and strategy;
4. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen the freshwater component of the water policy and strategy with respect to the following:
 - (a) Transfer of environmentally sound technologies for water management, with due attention to the use of local technologies and awareness-raising initiatives on technology development and transfer in the water sector;
 - (b) Integrated river basin, watershed and groundwater management;
 - (c) Regional and global assessments of water resources;
 - (d) International and regional cooperation on the environmental aspects of water (freshwater, coastal and marine environment);
 - (e) Integrated freshwater – coastal area management;
 - (f) Groundwater vulnerability assessment and promoting sustainable groundwater resource management;
 - (g) Ongoing collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the field of water, including projects on water for cities and industrial wastewater management;
5. Requests the Executive Director to take appropriate measures for strengthening the implementation of the Global International Waters Assessment project, with a view to establishing a firm basis for a continuing process of global assessment of water resources, also taking into account experience and work developed by the regional seas conventions;
6. Also requests the Executive Director, in consultation with Governments, to strengthen support for the regional implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme water policy and strategy, including further support to sub regional and regional cooperation on their strategies and initiatives for the environmentally sound management of water resources, including technical assistance;

7. Further requests the Executive Director to strengthen cooperation with other United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations and support the efforts of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as national Governments, when undertaking UNEP activities related to the environmental aspects of water with a view to effective implementation without duplication and in a cost-effective way;
8. Requests the Executive Director to play an active role in the following:
- (a) The observance of the World Day for Water, 26 2003;
 - (b) The commemoration of the International Year of Freshwater; 27
 - (c) The preparations for and conduct of the Third World Water Forum and ministerial conference, to be held in 2003, in a spirit of inter-agency cooperation;
 - (d) Activities of the Millennium Task Force on Water and Sanitation and the follow-up to the water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity initiative of the Secretary-General;
9. Decides to review the United Nations Environment Programme water policy and strategy at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. For this purpose, the Executive Director should prepare an updated version of the water policy and strategy, based on the key policy issues for the environmental aspects of water identified in the present decision and arising from the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in pursuance of the present decision and in keeping with the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
10. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

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

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 21/10 of 9 February 2001 and SS.VII/6 of 15 February 2002,

Having considered the progress reports of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities contained in documents UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/3, UNEP/GCSS.VII/4/Add.4 and UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.2,

Acknowledging the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities²⁸ and other outcomes of the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action, held in Montreal in November 2001, and the consideration given to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action by the World Summit on Sustainable Development which met in Johannesburg in September 2002, specifically in paragraphs 33 and 58 (e) of the Summit's Plan of Implementation²² and in the framework of action on water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity,

²⁶

²⁷

²⁸ See UNEP/GPA/IGR. 1/9.

Acknowledging the relevance of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,²⁹ to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, particularly with regard to the need to mobilize and increase the effective use of financial resources to protect the environment, and the need to pursue at the national level policy and regulatory frameworks that encourage initiative while protecting the environment, as also stipulated in the Global Programme of Action,

Recognizing that the Global Programme of Action is the only global action programme that addresses the linkages between freshwater, coastal and marine environments, and is therefore uniquely placed to promote scientific, management and institutional links between the freshwater, coastal and ocean management communities; forward the principles of integrated coastal area and river basin management; and facilitate improved multi-stakeholder communication and cooperation on freshwater, coastal and ocean issues at local, national and regional levels, and encourage the prevention, control and reduction of marine pollution in accordance with paragraph 34 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

Noting the key principles of the United Nations Environment Programme/World Health Organization/ Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council/ United Nations Human Settlements Programme practical guidance on municipal wastewater management (UNEP/GC.22/INF/4), outlining global consensus on innovative approaches in municipal wastewater management,

1. Requests the Executive Director to address, in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, the outcomes of the Montreal Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the World Summit on Sustainable Development as they relate to the objectives of the Global Programme of Action;
2. Acknowledges with appreciation the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its preparatory process particularly with regard to emphasizing the importance of healthy oceans, coasts and islands to sustainable development;
3. Requests the Executive Director to continue to contribute to the work of the Informal Coordinating Group on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands formed for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, with a view to providing input as appropriate to the Commission on Sustainable Development when considering the results of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and creating synergies amongst the type two partnerships relating to coastal and marine issues, in collaboration with national Governments and regional seas conventions;
4. Urges Governments and international organizations in a position to do so to further contribute to the Trust Fund for the Global Programme of Action, and urges the United Nations Environment Programme to mobilize new contributors;
5. Extends appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for its ongoing support of the United Nations Environment Programme by hosting the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office at The Hague, and Governments, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations that have provided or intend to provide financial or other contributions to the Global Programme of Action's 2002-2006 programme of work endorsed by the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting and Governing Council decision SS.VII/6;
6. Requests the Executive Director to further promote the concept of integrated coastal area and river basin management, and to facilitate, wherever possible, scientific, management and institutional links between freshwater management and coastal/marine management, taking into consideration the existing experience on the matter at national and regional levels;

²⁹ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No E.02.II.A7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

7. Urges Governments to adopt, and requests the Executive Director to integrate into relevant components of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme, a holistic environmental approach to sanitation and the implementation of the World Summit sanitation target, incorporating not only the provision of household sanitation services, but all other components of the water management process, including wastewater collection, treatment, reuse, and reallocation to the natural environment and requests the Executive Director to pursue the environmental dimension of this approach through the relevant components of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme;
8. Requests the Executive Director to develop a strategy paper for consideration by the Governing Council on the environmental dimensions of water supply and sanitation in the context of integrated water resource and waste water management, and to cooperate with appropriate United Nations organizations and programmes in developing indicators to assess the impact of provision of improved sanitation on the health and well-being of the environment;
9. Requests the Executive Director to further develop the key principles of the practical guidance on municipal wastewater management and to submit it to the Governing Council for consideration at its twenty-third session;
10. Requests the Executive Director to assess the feasibility of organizing regional consultations concerning the development of waste water emission targets suitable for implementation at the national and sub-national level, including reference to ecological benefits, especially where human needs and high conservation values co-exist. Such consultations, if found feasible, should be organized within the framework of the Regional Seas Programme and in cooperation with the partners of the joint Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment – the World Health Organization, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme – and the Task Force on Water and Sanitation of the Millennium Project, taking into account Governing Council decisions concerning a global marine assessment;
11. Urges Governments to continue strengthening and accelerating their efforts in implementing the Global Programme of Action, as called for in General Assembly resolution 55/34 A of 20 November 2000, Governing Council decision SS.VII/6, and paragraph 33 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and related voluntary type two partnerships developed in connection with the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
12. Encourages Governments, wherever possible, to conduct their national activities in support of the objectives of the Global Programme of Action, within a regional framework, considering the efforts of neighbouring Governments and the respective regional seas programmes and programmes of the regional offices;
13. Urges Governments to involve international financing institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sector and other stakeholders and major groups, through partnerships, in efforts to implement the Global Programme of Action;
14. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session a report on the action taken by the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme to implement the present decision, including on preparations for the second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action, in 2006, and offers by Governments to host the intergovernmental review.

III Regional Seas Programme

A. Regional seas strategies for sustainable development

The Governing Council.

Recalling its decision 21/28 of 9 February 2001 regarding the need for the development and strengthening of regional seas conventions and action plans in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of the marine and coastal environment, building partnerships and establishing linkages with multilateral environmental agreements,

Recalling also that paragraph 74 (b) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,³⁰ adopted in Washington, D.C., on 3 November 1995, requested the United Nations Environment Programme to revitalize the Regional Seas Programme and to promote and facilitate the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the regional level,

Taking into account the main outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as expressed in the relevant provisions of the World Summit's Plan of Implementation²² and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,³¹

Acknowledging that oceans, seas, coasts and watersheds are an essential component of sustainable economic development and that for many countries alleviation of poverty and improvement of quality of life will require sustainable management of the oceans and seas,

Acknowledging also that the regional seas programme is one of the main programmes of the United Nations that provides Governments, international organizations, global environmental conventions, global programmes and initiatives, non-governmental organizations and civil society, with an institutional platform through which regional activities and partnerships can address environmental degradation and promote sustainable development,

1. Requests the Executive Director to encourage and support regional seas conventions and action plans to incorporate the following strategic elements in their programmes of work and bring those elements to the attention of their respective Member States through their governing bodies and other relevant forums:

- (a) Use of regional seas conventions and action plans as an instrument for sustainable development, such as the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development of the Barcelona Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean;
- (b) Enhance countries' "ownership" over their respective regional seas conventions and action plans;
- (c) Increase participation of civil society and industry with the regional seas conventions and action plans in the development and implementation of programmes and partnerships;
- (d) Achieve financial sustainability;
- (e) Utilize the regional seas conventions and action plans as a platform for the regional implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and global programmes and initiatives;
- (f) Strengthen horizontal cooperation as well as possible twinning arrangements between regional seas conventions and action plans;

³⁰ UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/7.

³¹ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1) chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

- (g) Strengthen cooperation between existing regional seas programmes and initiatives within or outside the United Nations system, seeking synergies among them, as appropriate;
 - (h) Strengthen links, cooperation and coordination with such international organizations as the International Maritime Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and support cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements;
 - (i) Strengthen monitoring and assessment activities and ensure that regional seas secretariats are fully involved in the development of the process of establishment of the Global Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment and of the Global International Waters Assessment;
 - (j) Continue the administrative support from the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters to regional seas administration;
 - (k) Provide legal support upon request;
 - (l) Develop outreach, information and public awareness;
 - (m) Contribute to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;
2. Requests the Executive Director to continue providing financial, technical and administrative assistance to regional seas conventions and action plans, in order to strengthen their secretariats and regional coordinating units and their programmes of work, and develop initiatives and activities aimed at securing long-term sustainability taking into account the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. This support should be directed primarily at strengthening regional seas conventions and action plans with special needs;
3. Calls upon all littoral states of shared inland waters to collectively establish legal instruments for the protection of the environment of the respective area as soon as possible;
4. Requests the Executive Director to support and facilitate relevant processes of establishing mechanisms and instruments with regard to the protection of inland waters mainly through the United Nations Environment Programme's regional offices;
5. Calls upon the Executive Director and countries of respective regional seas programmes in a position to do so to mobilize resources in order to support the implementation of the plans of action for the regional seas programmes;
6. Invites donor countries, international financial institutions and the United Nations system, including the United Nations Environment Programme, within its available resources, to provide financial support and expertise towards regional seas programmes;
7. Requests the Executive Director to support, upon request from relevant Governments, the establishment of new regional seas conventions and action plans, where appropriate, subject to additional funding;
8. Invites Governments:
- (a) To take a more proactive role in all the stages of the implementation of the programme of work of their respective regional seas conventions and action plans and to develop "ownership" over those conventions and action plans;
 - (b) To strengthen their respective regional seas conventions and action plans by making their financial contributions and meeting their programmatic commitments and by providing additional resources to the secretariats in order to further implement relevant activities aimed at the sustainable use and management of the marine and coastal environment;

(c) To broaden governmental participation through the involvement of all relevant national ministries;

(d) To broaden monitoring, assessment and training activities which would serve as a scientific basis for efficient sustainable management.

B Northwest Pacific Action Plan

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 21/30 of 9 February 2001, on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan,

Having considered with appreciation the support provided by the Executive Director towards the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan as well as towards the progress made on the establishment of the co-hosted regional coordination unit and the establishment and activation of the four regional activity centres, as described in document UNEP/GC.22/INF/18,

Taking into account the resolutions of the seventh Intergovernmental Meeting (Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 20-22 March 2002) of the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region,

1. Requests the Executive Director to facilitate the finalization of the host country agreements for the co-hosted regional coordinating unit with Japan and the Republic of Korea and to facilitate the recruitment process for the staff of the unit;
2. Requests the Executive Director to continue to serve as the interim secretariat for the Northwest Pacific Action Plan until the co-hosted regional coordinating unit is fully established and operational, and to continue to support the activities of the unit through guidance and advice, following its establishment;
3. Requests the Executive Director to facilitate the development and implementation of a Global Environment Facility project on land-based activities in the Northwest Pacific Action Plan region.

C The Northeast Pacific Action Plan–La Antigua Guatemala Convention

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 19/14 E of 7 February 1997, 20/20 of 4 February 1999, and 21/29 of 9 February 2001 concerning the establishment of a regional seas programme for the Central-East Pacific Region,

Noting with appreciation the signature of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Northeast Pacific Regional Seas Programme in Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala, on 18 February 2002, by Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama,

Noting with satisfaction that the Conference of Plenipotentiaries also adopted the Plan of Action for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific,

Taking into account the resolutions of the first Intergovernmental Meeting of the Plan of Action for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific (Guatemala City, 19-22 February 2002),¹³²

1. Notes with appreciation the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme during the negotiation and signature of the text of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific;
2. Also notes with appreciation the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Central American Commission on Maritime Transportation in the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Northeast Pacific, in their capacity as interim secretariat until the regional coordinating unit is established;
3. Encourages those Governments which have already signed the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific to ratify the Convention to ensure its entry into force as soon as possible and to deposit their instruments of ratification with the depository Government, the Government of Guatemala;
4. Invites countries that have not yet signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific to consider doing so as soon as possible and to take the necessary steps to implement that Convention;
5. Recommends that the Governments of the region convene the second Intergovernmental Meeting of the Plan of Action and requests the Executive Director to assist in that task;
6. Calls upon the Governments of the region to establish a regional coordinating unit for the Action Plan following the offers made by the countries.

D Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region

The Governing Council.

Noting with appreciation the work accomplished by the United Nations Environment Programme by establishing a joint umbrella mechanism, to coordinate the programme of work for the Abidjan Convention on Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and the Nairobi Convention on the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region,

Noting with appreciation the twinning arrangements between the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions with the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Northeast Atlantic and the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, respectively,

³² See UNEP(DEC)/NEP/IG.1/7.

Conscious of the work carried out by the Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in support of the two regional seas conventions in Africa,

Taking note of the challenges that have faced the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions during the past two decades and the socio-economic factors in the management of marine and coastal resources, as well as the need for strategies and actions to mitigate against stress from human threats and global climate change on the marine and coastal environment,

1. Requests the Executive Director to provide technical and financial support to ensure effective coordination of the programmes of work for the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions through the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and to focus on activities that make the two conventions effective instruments for sustainable development, to address, among other issues, poverty, health and the environment to benefit all actors within the African coastal states;
2. Requests the Executive Director to provide support and delegate additional responsibilities to regional coordinating units to ensure that they coordinate regional consensus-building, intergovernmental dialogue and resource mobilization and to undertake the necessary coordination work for the implementation of the outcomes of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
3. Invites countries within the Nairobi and Abidjan Convention areas that have not ratified or acceded to the conventions to consider doing so and to take the necessary steps to implement the conventions and requests the Executive Director to facilitate such ratifications by providing, upon request of relevant Governments, technical assistance and legal advisory services;
4. Invites Governments that are parties to the regional seas conventions to strengthen those conventions by making contributions to the respective trust funds.

E South-East Pacific Action Plan - Lima Convention

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 19/14 B of 7 February 1997 concerning the strengthening of the regional seas programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Considering that the South-East Pacific region is one of the most valuable and productive marine ecosystems in the world, and that consequently the protection of the marine and coastal environment is of regional and international concern,

Recalling that the main objective of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific, created in 1981 in the framework of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific (Lima Convention), is the protection of the marine environment to promote the preservation of the health and well-being of present and future generations. This objective is in conformity with the Rio principles and the dispositions of chapter 17 of Agenda 21²⁵ as well as the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,²²

Bearing in mind that the South-East Pacific Action Plan is being executed successfully on the basis of fruitful inter-agency cooperation between the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also that several decisions of the meetings of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean decided to exhort the United Nations Environment Programme to pay due attention to the effective strengthening of the regional action plans for the protection of the marine environment and coastal areas, such as the South-East Pacific Action Plan and Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme,

Considering that the South-East Pacific Action Plan is taking on new and greater environmental challenges stemming from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and currently from the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in addition to the regional implementation of international conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and conventions of the International Maritime Organization, among others,

Taking into account decision 4 of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific, of November 2002, to strengthen cooperation between the South-East Pacific Action Plan and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Requests the Executive Director to strengthen horizontal cooperation as well as twinning arrangements established by the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and to support the organization of an interregional conference between those two regions, in addition to a conference between the regional seas programmes of the Pacific basin in 2004, in order to develop knowledge of the state of the marine environment in the Pacific as a whole.

IV Coral reefs

The Governing Council.

Recalling its decisions 18/33 of 26 May 1995, 19/15 of 7 February 1997 and 20/21 of 4 February 1999,

Recalling in particular its decision 21/12 of 9 February 2001,

Noting that while the reports of surveys of the status of the health of the world's coral reefs, including the work of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, the Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean project and Reef Check indicate a slow recovery on many of the world's most damaged coral reefs, from both anthropogenic and natural impacts, there is generally a continuing decline in coral reef health, particularly with respect to fish and shellfish stocks and continuing vulnerability as a result of human activities,

Acknowledging the pioneering and continuing role of the International Coral Reef Initiative both in raising awareness of the decline of coral reefs and in initiating action to address that decline, including through recent regional workshops in Cebu, Philippines, Maputo and Cancun, Mexico,

Anxious to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme makes optimal use of its scientific and technical resources in coral reef work,

Underscoring the need to address the problems faced by developing countries with regard to the impacts of coral reef degradation on vulnerable coastal communities and their subsistence,

Recognizing the progress made in strengthening the International Coral Reef Action Network partnership, and its initial progress in implementing coral reef management action since the main phase of the project commenced in June 2001,

Noting with approval that the expansion of the International Coral Reef Action Network as a type two partnership to embrace the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment, the

Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Marine Environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden and South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme was announced during the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Considering that the success of the International Coral Reef Action Network relies on a close working relationship and lasting cooperation with civil society, particularly the tourism and fisheries industries, and their international organizations,

Noting that many Governing Council member countries are parties to multilateral environmental agreements as well as to the International Coral Reef Initiative, and recognizing the need to improve coordination of work programmes related to coral reefs under those agreements,

1. Extends the scope of its decision 21/12 to cover the period 2003-2004;
2. Requests the Executive Director to provide continued support to the International Coral Reef Initiative to enhance its development and impact;
3. Requests the Executive Director to provide support to the International Coral Reef Action Network, one of the operational networks of the International Coral Reef Initiative, noting its expansion at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to three additional tropical seas containing coral communities, and to promote the participation of industries in the Network;
4. Welcomes the growing role of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre as a centre of excellence for coral reefs, hosting the United Nations Environment Programme Coral Reef Unit and maintaining its role in supporting the coordinating unit for the International Coral Reef Action Network;
5. Supports the realization of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development²² in respect to coral reefs;
6. Requests the Executive Director to continue giving effect to Governing Council decision 21/12, paragraphs 6³³ and 7,³⁴ and encourages the engagement of international financing institutions in this process;
7. Requests the Executive Director to submit a progress report on the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session.

V Marine safety and protection of the marine environment from accidental pollution

The Governing Council,

³³ Requests the Executive Director to increase existing collaborative efforts between the United Nations Environment Programme's ongoing coral-related activities and multilateral environmental conventions, especially with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat and the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage;

³⁴ Requests the Executive Director to develop collaborative approaches with United Nations agencies including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to address the economic, social and environmental urgency of achieving sustainability in the management and use of coral reefs;

Recalling its decision 21/28 of 9 February 2001, in which the Council requested the Executive Director to support the establishment of a joint International Maritime Organization/United Nations Environment Programme forum on emergency response to marine pollution,

Aware of the concerns of the international community regarding marine safety and protection of the marine environment from accidental pollution and the need to strengthen the safety conditions of maritime transport,

Acknowledging the commitment made in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,²² urging the International Maritime Organization to consider stronger mechanisms to secure implementation of its instruments by flag States,

Deeply concerned that the maritime transport of certain substances still poses important risks for the marine and coastal environment as evidenced by the recent accident off the Spanish coast,

Reaffirming the importance of the speedy implementation of the legal commitments contained in multilateral environmental and maritime transport agreements,

1. Invites the International Maritime Organization to actively review international regulations regarding single-hull tankers, especially those involved in the transport of heavy fuel oil, and to consider their more timely phasing out, to the degree that this is possible, with a view to reducing serious risk to the environment;
2. Highlights the need to promote the adequate protection of the marine areas and coastal zones that fulfil the criteria for the designation of particularly sensitive sea areas and advocates the furthering of the process of designating those areas in the framework of the International Maritime Organization;
3. Invites the International Maritime Organization to consider establishing a supplementary compensation fund for oil pollution victims, as well as for remediation of environmental damage through a protocol that could be considered for adoption during the Diplomatic Conference to be convened by the International Maritime Organization from 12 to 16 May 2003;
4. Encourages the strengthening of cooperation, at the regional and international levels, to prevent pollution and combat it in the event of a spill;
5. Invites all coastal and flag States that have not yet done so to consider ratification of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990 and also the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Cooperation on Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000, and to implement all the commitments of those instruments;
6. Invites the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Maritime Organization to strengthen their cooperation for an effective implementation at the regional level, of the global rules and regulations regarding prevention and combating of pollution from shipping;
7. Requests the Executive Director, in the framework of the Regional Seas Programme to support the regional implementation of the present decision, in full cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, as appropriate.

10th and 11th meetings

7 February 2003

21/10. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on implementation of the Global Programme of Action,¹⁰

Acknowledging the consideration given to implementation of the Global Programme of Action by the United Nations General Assembly Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea,

Recognizing the important implications of not addressing land-based activities with respect to human health, poverty alleviation and food security,

Recognizing that sound environmental management, including scientific evaluation has major implications for the protection of human health and socio-economic well-being,

Expressing its serious concern that the economic costs to society are enormous and are escalating by the slow action taken to control land-based activities,

Expressing further its concern that the productive capacity and ecological services of the marine environment, including estuaries and near-shore coastal waters, are increasingly degraded mainly by pollution from sewage, nutrients, sediment mobilization and by physical alteration and destruction of habitats,

Further recognizing the need to mainstream the objectives of the Global Programme of Action into appropriate programmes and activities at the local, national, regional and global levels,

Further recognizing that in order to effectively implement the Global Programme of Action appropriate actions must be taken at the level of river basins draining into coastal zones,

Recognizing the need to educate decision makers, environmental managers, the private sector and the public about the necessity of implementing the Global Programme of Action,

Recalling its decision 19/14 A of 7 February 1997 to strengthen the regional seas programme as a main mechanism to facilitate implementation of the Global Programme of Action,

Expressing its further concern over the discrepancy between the current and desirable level of participation by United Nations agencies and programmes and international financing institutions in activities related to implementation of the Global Programme of Action,

1. Requests the Executive Director to organize the first intergovernmental review meeting on the status of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in November 2001 with participation of Governments, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, international and regional financing institutions, private sector and other stakeholders and major groups, paying due attention to the use of innovative financial mechanisms for implementing the Global Programme of Action and to promote the involvement of Governments, the private sector, international financial institutions and the civic society in addressing this issue;

¹⁰ UNEP/GC.21/2 and INF/9.

2. Encourages Governments to implement the Global Programme of Action through the regional seas programmes and, where applicable, through regional agreements;
3. Notes with appreciation the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in giving new momentum to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, in particular in the preparations for the first intergovernmental review meeting on the progress in implementing the Programme of Action, the development of the clearing-house mechanism and work in addressing sewage as a major land-based pollutant;
4. Urges Governments to strengthen their efforts in implementing the Global Programme of Action and to consider, as called for in United Nations General Assembly resolution 55/34 A of 20 November 2000, actively contributing to the first intergovernmental review meeting on implementation of the Programme of Action;
5. Urges Governments to ensure that relevant United Nations agencies and organizations incorporate the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in their work programmes;
6. Urges Governments to involve international financing institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sector and other stakeholders and major groups, through promoting partnerships, in efforts to implement the Global Programme of Action;
7. Notes with appreciation the proactive role of the Global Environment Facility in facilitating the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and encourages it to continue supporting relevant projects;
8. Encourages the United Nations Environment Programme to further develop, through the Global Resources Information Database, cooperative programmes to share environmental data through a web-based geographic information system;
9. Urges United Nations agencies and programmes to accord high priority to projects to implement the Global Programme of Action;
10. Urges international financing institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the regional development banks, to accord high priority to projects to implement the Global Programme of Action;
11. Requests the Executive Director to pay due attention in the work programme of the United Nations Environment Programme to activities aimed at addressing the negative effects of sewage, physical alteration and destruction of habitats, nutrients and sediment mobilization on the marine, coastal and associated freshwater environment;
12. Requests the Executive Director to submit a progress report on activities of the United Nations Environment Programme as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session;
13. Urges Governments and international organizations in a position to do so to contribute to the Trust Fund for the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

21/11. Water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 19/14 D of 7 February 1997, SS.V/4 of 22 May 1998, 20/25 of 5 February and SS.VI/2 of 31 May 2000,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on water issues related to Governing Council decisions 20/25 and SS.VI/2;^{11/}
2. Accepts in its present form the water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme^{12/} which enhances the focus of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on the environmental aspects of sustainable development and integrated management of water in accordance with national needs and subject to Governments' requests;
3. Expresses its appreciation to the Executive Director for the measures taken to implement Governing Council decisions 20/25 and SS.VI/2;
4. Also expresses its appreciation to the Executive Director for the progress reports submitted to the Committee for Permanent Representatives, respectively on: the Global International Waters Assessment; the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; the regional seas conventions; and the water activities of the International Environmental Technology Centre;
5. Further expresses its appreciation for the establishment of an expert group on exchange of information on best practices in the freshwater management;
6. Decides that the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, and taking into account national priorities, should place a high priority on the identification of expertise and knowledge available in countries relating to the environmental aspects of water quality, and facilitate the establishment of partnerships between those countries and countries in need of that expertise and knowledge and the promotion of intergovernmental collaboration upon requests of the Governments concerned;
7. Requests the Executive Director to enhance, through the International Environmental Technology Centre, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for water management, with due attention to the use of local technologies, the identification and analysis of the costs, effectiveness and strengths and limitations of alternative technologies, and awareness-raising initiatives on technology development and transfer in the water sector;
8. Also requests the Executive Director to intensify collaborative activities with Governments, upon request, as well as with other organizations and agencies in furtherance of the implementation of the water policy and strategy;
9. Also requests the Executive Director to take the necessary measures in furtherance of the continued implementation of the water policy and strategy, consistent with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the priorities outlined in Governing Council decisions at its respective sessions and in line with the relevant chapters of Agenda 21;
10. Also requests the Executive Director to ensure the review of the water policy and strategy at the twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in 2003;
11. Also requests the Executive Director to identify key policy issues for the environmental aspects of water, arising from the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in line with the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme^{13/} and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration and the outcome of the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21, and to propose policy options to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

^{11/} UNEP/GC.21/INF/21.

^{12/} UNEP/GC.21/2/Add.1.

^{13/} Governing Council decision 19/1, annex.

12. Also requests the Executive Director to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme, when undertaking its activities related to the environmental aspects of water, takes into account the work carried out by other United Nations agencies and international organizations as well as by national Governments to avoid duplication;

13. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council, at its twenty-second session, on the progress in the implementation of the present decision and in related environmental issues.

21/12. Coral reefs

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 18/33 of 26 May 1995, 19/15 of 7 February 1997 and 20/21 of 4 February 1999,

Recalling that several members of the Governing Council, international agencies including the United Nations Environment Programme, non-governmental organizations and scientific bodies are partners of the International Coral Reef Initiative which in 1995 developed the Call to Action, the Framework for Action to address the decline in the world's reefs and in 1998 the Renewed Call to Action,

Noting the concern and apprehension of the partners of the International Coral Reef Initiative that the extensive evidence that coral reef ecosystems continue to be damaged or severely degraded as the result of both direct human activities and global climate change as witnessed by the increased global incidence of episodes of "coral bleaching" since its twentieth session,

1. Welcomes the Executive Director's circulation of the Renewed Call to Action statement of the International Coral Reef Initiative;

2. Notes with satisfaction the United Nations Environment Programme's increased commitment to coral reef related activities, through the establishment of a new United Nations Environment Programme Coral Reef Unit, its continuing role in the International Coral Reef Initiative and its coordinating role in the International Coral Reef Action Network;

3. Supports the United Nations Environment Programme's continued participation and existing cooperation in the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network to implement the global coral reef monitoring network to support conservation and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems, especially in light of the recently released report which presents the prospect that 60 per cent of the world's coral reefs could be lost by 2030;

4. Underscores the need to strengthen the role of the regional seas conventions and action plans as partners for implementing the International Coral Reef Initiative Framework for Action, including the action phase of the International Coral Reef Action Network;

5. Requests the Executive Director to take appropriate action to ensure that each of the regional seas programmes work as partners in the International Coral Reef Initiative to prepare and implement regional or subregional programmes, in the area of conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs;

6. Requests the Executive Director to increase existing collaborative efforts between the United Nations Environment Programme's ongoing coral-related activities and multilateral environmental conventions, especially with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat and the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage;

7. Requests the Executive Director to develop collaborative approaches with United Nations agencies including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to address the economic, social and environmental urgency of achieving sustainability in the management and use of coral reefs;

8. Requests the Executive Director to further increase fund raising efforts to support coral reef related activities and to work with partners including the International Coral Reef Initiative to maximize the contribution of existing and potential new funding mechanisms to address the urgent needs of conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs;

9. Requests the Executive Director to submit a progress report on the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.

10th meeting
9 February 2001

21/13. Global assessment of the state of the marine environment

The Governing Council.

Noting Commission on Sustainable Development decision 7/1,^{14/}

Also noting paragraph 5 of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, as well as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in particular Part XII, and the work programme of marine and coastal biodiversity under the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Noting further the ongoing work aimed at improving the knowledge base on the state of the marine environment, including activities being carried out within the framework of the Global International Waters Assessment, the Global Ocean Observing System and the United Nations Atlas of the Oceans,

1. Notes the reports published by the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection entitled “A sea of troubles” and “Protecting the oceans from land-based activities - Land-based sources and activities affecting the quality and uses of the marine, coastal and associated freshwater environment”;

2. Recognizes that the report “A sea of troubles” identifies “ineffective communication between scientists and government policy makers and the public alike” as one of the reasons for the lack of commitment and the inability of the international community to address and solve the environmental problems of the seas in a comprehensive way;

3. Requests the Executive Director to take an active part in implementing General Assembly resolution 54/33 of 24 November 1999 and General Assembly resolution 55/7 of 30 October 2000 by participating in the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, an annual review and evaluation of developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea;

4. Requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other appropriate United Nations agencies, the secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity and in consultation with the regional seas programmes to explore the feasibility of establishing a regular process

^{14/} / Commission on Sustainable Development – report on the seventh session (E/1999/29).

for the assessment of the state of the marine environment, with active involvement by governments and regional agreements, building on ongoing assessment programmes;

5. Requests the Executive Director to present the matter to the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea at its next session in May 2001;
6. Also requests the Executive Director to submit a progress report on this issue to it at its twenty-second session.

21/28. Further development and strengthening of regional seas programmes: promoting the conservation and sustainable use of the marine and coastal environment, building partnerships and establishing linkages with multilateral environmental agreements

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 20/19 A of 5 February 1999 and 19/14 B of 7 February 1997,

Recalling also that paragraph 74 (b) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,^{15/} adopted at Washington, D.C. on 3 November 1995, requests the United Nations Environment Programme, in its capacity as secretariat, to revitalize the Regional Seas Programme to promote and facilitate the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the regional level,

Noting the importance that the global meetings of regional seas conventions and action plans have taken as a consultative mechanism for the revitalization of Regional Seas Programme, including the strengthening of partnerships with international organizations dedicated to marine and coastal issues and the establishment of programmatic linkages with global environmental conventions and related agreements,

Having considered the outcome of the Third Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, held in Monaco from 6 to 10 November 2000,^{16/}

1. Expresses its appreciation to the representatives of the secretariats of regional seas conventions and action plans and global environmental conventions and related international agreements for their participation and their contributions to the successful outcome of the Third Global Meeting;
2. Expresses also its appreciation to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the World Conservation Union and the Advisory Committee for the Protection of the Sea for their contributions to the meeting;
3. Requests the Executive Director to continue to use global meetings of regional seas conventions and action plans and other cost-effective consultative mechanisms for the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in the further strengthening of regional seas programmes and for building synergies and collaboration among environmental agreements;

^{15/} / UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/7.

^{16/} / UNEP/GC.21/INF/14.

4. Requests the Executive Director to invite as the secretariat of the regional seas programme the representatives of the shipping industry, the chemical industry and the tourism industry to the Fourth Global Meeting to discuss possible roles and collaboration in support of regional seas programmes.

A. *The continued revitalization of the Regional Seas Programme*

Having considered the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in support of regional seas conventions and action plans,^{17/}

Taking note with appreciation the action taken by the Executive Director to support the revitalization of the Regional Seas Programme through the provision of strategic programmatic support and the facilitation of collaborative arrangements with global environmental conventions and related agreements,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue to give priority to the revitalization of the Regional Seas Programme as its central mechanism for implementation of its activities relevant to chapter 17 of Agenda 21, taking into account the recommendations of the Third Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, focusing on priority issues such as land-based sources of pollution, integrated coastal areas management, coral reefs and the development or revision of regional seas conventions and protocols;

2. Requests the Executive Director to support the preparation of a strategic approach to financing regional seas programmes and to assist them in the mobilization of resources, taking into account the wide range of funding sources available, including, but not limited to, the Global Environmental Facility, bilateral and multilateral donors, private industry and non-governmental organizations;

3. Recognizes the rejuvenation seen recently in the Caribbean Environment Programme and encourages the Executive Director to find sufficient funding to finance its activities and continued growth, as well as that of similarly well managed and under-funded regional seas programmes;

B. *Horizontal cooperation among regional seas conventions and action plans*

Recognizing the value of the sharing of experiences and information exchange among regional seas programmes,

Recognizing also the important technical assistance and advisory services that can be provided by the more experienced and developed regional seas programmes to those that are less developed,

Welcoming the twinning arrangements between the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme as the secretariat of the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region (Nairobi Convention), signed in Malmö, on 30 May 2000, and between the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment Programme and the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment, as well as the memorandum of understanding for closer cooperation between the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment Programme and the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and United Nations Environment Programme (May 2000),

^{17/} / UNEP/GC.21/INF/6 and INF/14.

1. Requests the Executive Director to support the implementation of these twinning arrangements and to continue to facilitate the negotiation of new arrangements for horizontal cooperation among regional seas programmes;
2. Urges the Governments that are Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic and Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region to support the ongoing negotiation of a twinning arrangement.

C. Collaboration with global environmental conventions and related international agreements

Recalling its decision 20/18 B of 4 February 1999 on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions, decision 20/28 of 4 February 1999 on promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs and decision 20/19 B of 4 February 1999 on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,

Considering decision V/3 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in May 2000 on joint programming of Convention on Biological Diversity and the regional seas conventions and action plans,^{18/}

Taking into account the Strategic Action Plan adopted by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in April 2000, which calls for closer collaboration with regional seas programmes,

1. Welcomes the action taken by the Executive Director in promoting synergies among regional seas conventions and action plans, including new twinning arrangements, and with global environmental conventions and related agreements;
2. Welcomes the cooperation of the regional seas conventions and action plans in the regional preparatory process for the first intergovernmental review meeting on implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (Montreal, November 2001), including the preparation of a one-day session on the regional seas programmes at the meeting;
3. Emphasizes that municipal wastewater, as appropriate, is a priority of the regional seas programmes in preparing their work programmes on land-based sources of pollution, as well as the need to address:
 - (a) Tourism, as appropriate, as a major economic activity linked to, among others, sewage and physical alteration and destruction of habitats;
 - (b) Agriculture and its effects on the coastal and marine environment, including nutrient over-enrichment and pesticides input to the oceans;
4. Welcomes the reinitiation of collaboration between the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Regional Seas Programme, including the work of the Convention's regional training centres, and the offer of the Basel Convention

^{18/} / Report of the fifth meeting to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, annex III (UNEP/CBD/COP.5/23).

secretariat to assist regional seas conventions in the development of protocols on transboundary movement of hazardous wastes;

5. Invites the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the future convention on persistent organic pollutants and the Regional Seas Programme to work closely together in the implementation of capacity building and information exchange activities for assisting countries in meeting their obligations under the two chemicals-related conventions;

6. Invites the regional seas programmes, the Rotterdam Convention and the convention on persistent organic pollutants to collaborate on mutually supportive activities, such as the development and application of harmonized customs codes;

7. Requests the Executive Director to prepare an inventory of the work in chemicals undertaken by the regional seas programmes as an information base for collaborating on mutually supportive activities with the Rotterdam Convention and the convention on persistent organic pollutants;

8. Encourages the Convention on Biological Diversity and the regional seas programmes to further their collaboration in the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, including (a) the elaboration of modalities for cooperation and (b) a commitment to identify common elements between the respective regional activities and the marine and coastal programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a view to harmonizing work plans, bearing in mind that one issue common to all regional seas programmes and the Convention on Biological Diversity is the application of the ecosystem approach to their programmes of work;

9. Requests the Executive Director to support cooperative initiatives aimed at the harmonization of work plans of the regional seas conventions and the Convention on Biological Diversity and, where appropriate, to support the development of harmonized national reporting consistent with the guidelines approved by the respective Conference of the Parties;

10. Requests the Executive Director to facilitate cooperative arrangements between the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the regional seas programmes, including regional dialogue on problematic issues of common concern and through the facilitation of information to regional seas programmes on activities to be undertaken by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora within their respective regions;

11. Invites the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals to involve the relevant regional seas programmes at an early stage in developing and implementing regional agreements related to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals affecting marine species such as sea turtles, albatrosses, sharks, whales and marine mammals;

12. Requests the Executive Director to continue with the restructuring of the United Nations Environment Programme Marine Mammal Action Plan through a greater coordinated effort among the regional seas programmes, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Biological Diversity and relevant partner organizations, including the World Conservation Union.

D. Partnerships with international organizations

Taking into account that the seventh session of the Commission for Sustainable Development in April 1999 proposed a United Nations consultative process on oceans to provide an integrated review of economic, social, environment and legal dimensions of developments affecting oceans and seas and that this consultative process was subsequently established by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 54/33 of 24 November 1999,

Bearing in mind that, following the first meeting of the consultative process from 30 May to 2 June 2000, the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session adopted resolution 55/7 of 30 October 2000 calling for strengthening regional cooperation in specific areas, including fisheries management organizations and arrangements, integrated management and sustainable development of coastal and marine areas and capacity building, among others, and, in paragraph 42, for more effective collaboration and coordination between the relevant parts of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations as a whole,

Recognizing that the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas, of which the United Nations Environment Programme is a member, is promoting enhanced inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system of activities aimed at implementing chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

Taking into account the recommendations of the Third Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans proposing renewed cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Maritime Organization and International Atomic Energy Agency in supporting the implementation of the regional seas programmes,

1. Requests the Executive Director to promote a more active involvement of the regional seas conventions and action plans in the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea and in the regional and subregional preparatory activities being organized for the 2002 review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in their follow-up;

2. Requests the Executive Director, in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to follow up on the endorsement by the Third Global Meeting of the paper on the joint United Nations Environment Programme/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, entitled “Ecosystem-based Management of Fisheries: Opportunities and Challenges for Coordination between Marine Regional Fisheries Bodies and Regional Seas Conventions”, including support to the following actions for enhancing cooperation:^{19/}

- (a) The formalization of the observer status of the regional seas conventions and action plans at the meetings of the governing bodies of regional fisheries bodies and their technical subsidiary organs, and vice versa;
- (b) Exchange data and information available at the levels of and regional seas conventions and action plans that may be of mutual interest;
- (c) The organization of joint technical meetings on subjects of mutual interest;
- (d) The design and implementation of joint programmes between and regional seas conventions and action plans, taking fully into account the respective mandates, objectives and scope of the regional seas programmes;

3. Welcomes the joint United Nations Environment Programme/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations initiative on enhanced cooperation between regional fisheries bodies and regional seas conventions and action plans on issues relevant to ecosystem-based management of fisheries as a considerable contribution towards the implementation of global conventions and programmes, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, as well as the 2001 Reykjavik Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Ecosystem (Reykjavik, between 24 and 28 September 2001);

^{19/} Following the Third Global Meeting, the paper was revised and will be presented to the forthcoming meeting of regional fisheries bodies organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in February 2001 for consideration and endorsement.

4. Requests the Executive Director to support the establishment of a joint International Maritime Organization/United Nations Environment Programme forum on emergency response to marine pollution with a view to exchanging experiences and to discuss issues of common concern among the regional seas conventions and action plans;
5. Requests the Executive Director to follow up on the recommendation that United Nations Environment Programme work closely with the Coastal Global Ocean Observing System, directed by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, through a cooperative arrangement to ensure that the scientific and technical needs of regional seas programmes are fully taken into account in the development, management and implementation of the Coastal Global Ocean Observing System in particular, as well as the overall work of the Global Ocean Observing System, including the need to implement supportive capacity-building activities in regional seas programmes as required;
6. Invites the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, through its Global Ocean Observing System programme, given the complimentary scientific work that it is undertaking, to participate in the United Nations Environment Programme/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations initiative on the ecosystem-based management of fisheries;
7. Requests the Executive Director, within available resources, to work with the Marine Environment Studies Laboratory of the International Atomic Energy Agency in supporting marine pollution sampling, monitoring and assessment activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are member States of regional seas programmes;
8. Requests the Executive Director to continue strengthening partnerships with the members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas in support of the implementation of regional seas programmes, including relevant programmes such as the Global International Waters Assessment and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

21/29. Establishment of a regional seas programme for the Central-East Pacific region

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 19/14 E of 7 February 1997 and 20/20 of 4 February 1999,

Bearing in mind that the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities calls on States to pursue more active participation in the negotiating processes for regional instruments, including accession or ratification, as appropriate, of regional seas agreements,

Endorsing the action taken thus far in facilitating the establishment of a regional seas programme for the Central-East Pacific region, including the results of the first meeting of High-level Government-designated Experts of the proposed Central-East Pacific Regional Seas Programme held in Panama City from 5 to 8 September 2000,

Noting with appreciation progress achieved at the Panama meeting in the negotiation of a convention for the protection and sustainable development of the Central-East Pacific,

Noting with satisfaction the decision of the Governments at the Panama meeting to commence a preparatory process in the region that will contribute to the 2001 Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,

1. Invites the Governments of Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama to continue with their efforts to negotiate and adopt a convention and action plan for the protection and sustainable development of the Central-East Pacific;

2. Calls for close cooperation between the proposed Central-East Pacific Regional Seas Programme, the South-East Pacific Action Plan and the Caribbean Action Plan;
3. Welcomes the offer of the Central American Commission on Maritime Transportation to host, with the support of the Government of Nicaragua, the second meeting of High-level, Government-designated Experts of the proposed Central-East Pacific Regional Seas Programme in Managua in the early part of 2001;
4. Requests the Executive Director to invite multilateral funding institutions, including the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility and the Inter-American Development Bank to future meetings of the Central-East Pacific Regional Seas Programme;
5. Requests the Executive Director, within the context of the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, to assist the Governments of the Central-East Pacific in furthering the negotiations of a regional agreement for the protection and sustainable development of the Central-East Pacific;
6. Requests the Executive Director to submit a report on the progress in this matter to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.

21/30. The implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 20/19 A of 5 February 1999, in which the Governing Council stressed the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to strengthen the regional seas programme as the central mechanism for implementation of its activities relevant to chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

Taking into account the resolutions of the fourth, fifth and sixth intergovernmental meetings of the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region concerning the establishment of the Regional Coordinating Unit for the Action Plan,

Mindful of the programme of work adopted at the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting (Inch'on, the Republic of Korea, 29-30 March 2000), and the decision of the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting (Tokyo, 5-6 December 2000) in its resolution 1 to incorporate into the Action Plan a priority programme element on land-based sources of pollution, including participation in the preparatory process leading to the First Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution,

1. Welcomes the decision of the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting to establish a Regional Coordinating Unit for the Action Plan to be administered by the United Nations Environment Programme and co-hosted by Toyama, Japan and Pusan, the Republic of Korea;
2. Notes with satisfaction progress achieved in the implementation of the Action Plan's programme of work, including the establishment of a priority project on land-based sources of pollution, including participation in the preparatory process leading to the First Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities;
3. Notes with appreciation the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme to the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan;

4. Requests the Executive Director to establish the Northwest Pacific Action Plan Regional Coordinating Unit as a United Nations Environment Programme-administered secretariat of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan;
5. Further requests the Executive Director to enter into negotiations with Japan and the Republic of Korea for the host country agreements for co-hosting a single Regional Coordinating Unit in the terms reflected in resolution 2 in the report of the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations and to inform, and if necessary, consult with the other member States, on the progress of such negotiations;
6. Approves the extension of the duration of the Northwest Pacific Plan Trust Fund through 2003.

20/20. Establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific

The Governing Council,

Having considered the status report of the Executive Director on the establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific, /

1. Endorses the actions taken thus far in facilitating establishment of a proposed regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific region, and takes note of the wide support by the concerned Governments for the draft Action Plan and corresponding legal instrument;
2. Invites the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama to endorse the proposed Meeting of High-Level Government-Designated Experts to Review the Proposals for a Convention and Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the East Central Pacific region.

20/21. Coral reefs

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 19/15 of 7 February 1997, by which the Council urged the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to play an active and leading role in the development, implementation and coordination of regional activities under the International Coral Reef Initiative,

1. Endorses the proposed collaborative activities of the United Nations Environment Programme with agencies and organizations both inside and outside the United Nations system, for protection and conservation of coral reef ecosystems;
2. Requests the Executive Director to carry out an assessment of the experience of the United Nations Environment Programme to date in the implementation of the International Coral Reef Initiative programme and consider how the role of the United Nations Environment Programme can be strengthened in conjunction with the International Coral Reef Initiative Secretariat, for discussion by the Council at its twenty-first session;
3. Endorses enhanced cooperation within the United Nations system, particularly with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and with multilateral development banks such as the World Bank;
4. Requests the Executive Director to circulate the Renewed Call to action of the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium, held in Townsville, Australia, from 23 to 26 November 1998, to the Governing Council for its consideration at its twenty-first session;
5. Requests the Executive Director, in conjunction with the International Coral Reef Initiative Secretariat and the International Coral Reef Initiative Coordination and Planning Committee, to continue

to seek funding for the implementation of the International Coral Reef Initiative's activities and programmes;

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

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

20/25. Freshwater

The Governing Council,

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

1. Takes note of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

2. Also takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on freshwater issues; /

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

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

5. Welcomes the focus of the freshwater work of the United Nations Environment Programme on the environmental aspects of assessment and sustainable integrated management in accordance with national needs;

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

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

8. Requests the Executive Director to identify key policy issues for freshwater quality arising from the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme to date, in line with the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session and the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, 17/ and to propose policy options for debate and endorsement by the Governing Council at its twenty-first session;

9. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme, when undertaking its activities related to the environmental aspects of freshwater, takes into account the work carried out by other United Nations agencies and international organizations as well as by national Governments in order to avoid unnecessary duplication;
10. Requests the Executive Director to promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for freshwater management through the International Environmental Technology Centre;
11. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council, at its twenty-first session, on the progress in the implementation of the present decision and in related environmental issues.

9th meeting

4 February 1999

19/15. International Coral Reef Initiative

The Governing Council,

Recalling that the International Coral Reef Initiative is a partnership of Governments, international and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, established to address capacity-building, research and monitoring and the sustainable management and use of coral reefs and related ecosystems,

Noting that the Initiative has received wide expressions of technical and political support, including from the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and The World Conservation Union,

Recalling that, in its decision 18/33 of 26 May 1995, the Governing Council welcomed the Initiative and encouraged the United Nations Environment Programme regional programmes to incorporate the Initiative's recommendations into relevant activities and to translate them, whenever appropriate, into concrete supporting measures on protection and conservation,

Recognizing the significant achievements of the Initiative in focusing the world's attention on the need for action to protect and manage coral reefs,

Welcoming the Call to Action and Framework for Action developed by participants at the International Coral Reef Initiative Workshop held in Dumaguete City, the Philippines, from 29 May to 2 June 1995, the international workshop held in Panama in June 1996 and the International Coral Reef Initiative regional strategies developed at subsequent workshops in five International Coral Reef Initiative regions in the period 1995-1996,

Noting that the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with other International Coral Reef Initiative partners, has played an active and vital role in the development of the Initiative to date and that the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme provides an important foundation for implementing the priorities identified by the regional strategies of the International Coral Reef Initiative,

Welcoming the establishment of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and the participation of the United Nations Environment Programme,

with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Conservation Union, as a sponsor and member of its Management Group and its Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee,

Recognizing that the success of the current phase of the Initiative requires continued global coordination as well as the translation of international momentum into action at the regional, national and local levels, and that to achieve these aims the leadership and focus of the Initiative must devolve to the regional level,

1. Expresses its support for the Call to Action and Framework for Action of the International Coral Reef Initiative;
2. Strongly encourages the Executive Director, particularly through the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, and in cooperation with Governments, other international, regional and national organizations and other International Coral Reef Initiative partners:

- (a) To continue to play an active and leading role in the development, implementation and coordination of regional activities under the International Coral Reef Initiative, including through participation in its Coordinating Planning Committee;
- (b) To continue to sponsor the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, paying particular attention to promoting the monitoring and assessment of reefs;
- (c) To help build global awareness of the urgent need to conserve coral reef resources, for example through the 1997 International Year of the Reef campaign and the 1998 United Nations Year of the Oceans;
- (d) To help promote the establishment of regional programmes in each of the six International Coral Reef Initiative regions and one or more demonstration projects in each region.

18/31. Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/20 of 21 May 1993, instituting a programme of meetings leading to a global intergovernmental conference for the purpose of adopting a programme of action to protect the marine environment from degradation by land-based activities,

Welcoming the progress made at the Preliminary Meeting of Experts to Assess the Effectiveness of Regional Seas Agreements, held in Nairobi from 6 to 10 December 1993,¹ the Meeting of Government-designated Experts Focusing on the 1985 Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment against Land-based Sources of Pollution, held in Montreal from 6 to 10 June 1994,² and the Meeting of Government-designated Experts to Review and Revise a Global Programme of Action to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, held in Reykjavik from 6 to 10 March 1995,³

Having noted the draft Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities⁴ which will be submitted to the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities to be held in Washington, D.C., from 23 October to 3 November 1995,

Having noted also recent developments which are important in relation to the protection of the seas, such as the entry into force on 16 November 1994 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,²⁸ the developments for enhancing the protection of the sea from the dumping of waste within the framework of the 1972 London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter,⁵ the strengthening at the regional level of legal instruments for the protection of the marine environment against degradation from land-based activities, in particular within the framework of the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, the requirements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change³⁶ and the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁶ and the ongoing implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal,⁷ the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa and other relevant conventions on transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal, with a view, inter alia, to preventing and regulating all risks and potential damage to the marine environment,

¹ See the report of Preliminary Meeting of Experts to Assess the Effectiveness of Regional Seas Agreements (UNEP/LBS/WG.1/1/3).

² See the report of the Meeting of Government-designated Experts Focusing on the 1985 Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment against Land-based Sources of Pollution (UNEP/MG/IG/1/5).

³ See the report of the Meeting of Government-designated Experts to Review and Revise a Global Programme of Action to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/ICL/IG/1/L.6).

⁴ UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/3.

⁵ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1064, No. 15749.

⁶ UNEP/Bio.Div/N7-INC.5/4.

⁷ UNEP/WG.190/4.

Recognizing that inadequate disposal of urban waste-water is one of the main problems affecting communities and ecosystems, stressing its implications for sustainable development in the developing world, including, inter alia, human health, infant mortality, and agricultural uses;

Noting that the use of environmentally sound technologies and facilities as well as available resources for ensuring adequate waste-water treatment in the developing world is at present limited and that therefore there is an urgent need to address the adverse socio-economic and health effects of waste-water;

1. Calls on all States, including those participating in regional conventions and programme for the protection of the marine environment, the regional seas programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the relevant international and non-governmental organizations, to consider the draft Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and to communicate any proposals for amendment to the Executive Director by 15 August 1995, for submission to the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities to be held in Washington, D.C., from 23 October to 3 November 1995. Such suggestions could, in particular, relate to, or be derived from, new or already planned land-based activities in fields such as urban development and planning, tourism, agriculture, manufacturing industry, aquaculture, harbour operations and management of river systems, and aim at ways and means by which the Programme of Action could contribute to the development of land-based activities in a sustainable manner and support their implementation in accordance with nationally or regionally agreed environmental planning;

2. Requests the Executive Director to produce the additional information on future funding requirements and opportunities, and on clearing-house activities, as was requested by the meeting of Government-designated experts in Reykjavik, and assemble, analyse and process any proposals communicated by States or relevant organizations, in particular those resulting from further regional consultations, and distribute this information in due time before the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference in Washington, D.C.;

3. Urges Governments to contribute additional resources to support the participation of developing countries in the Intergovernmental Conference in 1995, as well as any necessary intersessional preparatory activities;

4. Requests the Executive Director to take note of the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea Conference on Funding and Institutional Issues for the Washington Action Programme on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, due to take place in Rio de Janeiro in June 1995, and to relay any recommendations, in particular those that address the various needs of States and that may facilitate the adoption and implementation of the Global Programme of Action, in due time for information to the Intergovernmental Conference in Washington, D.C.;

5. Calls on States participating in the Intergovernmental Conference in Washington to consider how, within the Global Programme of Action, appropriate attention could be given to support action at national and regional level on urban waste-water management and treatment and persistent organic pollutants as was requested by the Reykjavik meeting of Government-designated experts, in accordance with available resources and capacities and taking into account the relevant principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development² and the priorities of Agenda 21¹;

6. Requests the Executive Director to initiate action to ensure appropriate linkages between the elements of the draft Global Programme of Action on persistent organic pollutants and on management and treatment of urban sewage and similar action being developed in other forums. Initial actions related to persistent organic pollutants are contained in Governing Council decision 18/32 of 25 May 1995;

7. Requests the Executive Director:

- (a) To further, in cooperation with other appropriate agencies, projects aimed at the development of indigenous and basic systems for waste-water management, with focus on community-based systems and, where possible, stimulate water recycling;
- (b) To provide for international know-how to assist developing countries in addressing in an efficient and effective manner the problem of adequate disposal and recycling of urban waste-water;
- (c) To support activities undertaken by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the development of operating manuals for shallow sewerage systems, and other relevant human settlement waste-water treatment and management approaches;

8. Calls on States in a position to do so, and multilateral financing institutions, to cooperate actively in new and existing regional cooperation frameworks and to support States participants in such regional frameworks, at their request, to implement the provisions of the Global Programme of Action at the appropriate national, regional and international level and to enhance the capacity to prevent degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities;

9. Requests the Executive Director to make arrangements, in the period up to the nineteenth session of the Governing Council, to promote and facilitate the implementation of the outcome of the Washington Intergovernmental Conference, in cooperation with all relevant intergovernmental organizations;

10. Requests the Executive Director to ensure immediate and high priority for these activities and to programme adequate funds and staff to facilitate implementation within the available programme resources for the relevant year for activity 7.1.4.(a);

11. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on the outcome of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

18/33. International coral reef initiative

The Governing Council,

Noting that many of the world's coral reefs are severely degraded or destroyed due to human activities,

Recalling that chapter 17 of Agenda 21¹ identifies coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds as marine ecosystems of high biological diversity and production and recommends that they be accorded high priority for identification and protection,

Noting the report of the United Nations Environment Programme-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission-Association of South Pacific Environmental Institutions-World Conservation Union Global Task Team on the Implications of Climate Change on Coral Reefs,⁸

Also noting that coral reefs have been designated as the coastal system chosen as the first to be developed within the coastal zone module of the Global Ocean Observing System,

Recognizing the initiative of Australia, France, Jamaica, Japan, the Philippines, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States to sponsor a workshop to promote an international coral reef initiative, to be held in the Philippines from 29 May to 2 June 1995,

⁸ C.R. Wilkinson and R.W. Buddemeier, Global Climate Change and Coral Reefs: Implications for People and Reefs. Report of the UNEP-IOC-ASPEI-IUCN Global Task Team on the Implications of Climate Change on Coral Reefs (IUCN, Gland, Switzerland, 1994).

Noting that the initiative builds upon and reflects the processes established by the Commission on Sustainable Development, which will address chapter 17 of Agenda 21 in 1996, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity,⁵⁸ which will address marine biological diversity in 1995, the 1995 intergovernmental meetings on protection of the marine environment from land-based activities, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,³⁶ the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,²⁸ and other relevant international programmes,

1. Welcomes the international coral reef initiative, which is a partnership of Governments, international organizations (including lending institutions), and non-governmental organizations to address capacity-building, research and monitoring and sustainable management and use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems;
2. Supports the establishment of a global coral reef monitoring network, as proposed as part of the coastal zone and shelf module of the Global Ozone Observing System by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Conservation Union, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the World Meteorological Organization and International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, within existing resources, to monitor the status of reefs and enhance their management;
3. Encourages the regional programmes of United Nations Environment Programme, particularly the regional seas programmes, to incorporate recommendations of the coral reef initiative workshop, as appropriate, into relevant United Nations Environment Programme activities and, whenever appropriate, to translate them into concrete supporting measures on protection and conservation;
4. Encourages continued participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the international coral reef initiative, particularly the international coral reef initiative planning committee, regional meetings, and forthcoming session at the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1996.

18/39. Regional programmes

A. Regional programme support for Africa

The Governing Council.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, by which the Assembly endorsed Agenda 21 and the emphasis it gave to regional environment and development priority activities as contained in the various regional common positions for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Reaffirming its decision 17/32 of 21 May 1993, endorsing the integrated approach to environment and sustainable development,

Appreciative of the effort made by the Executive Director in the integrated approach contained in the 1996-1997 programme of work and

budget,⁶⁷

Also appreciative of the continued inclusion of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment among the activities of the work programme and budget,

Concerned that the key priorities in the proposed programme do not respond adequately to Africa's major environmental concerns as expressed in the African Common Position on Environment and Development submitted to the

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development by Africa as addressed in the priorities of the new programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Believing that Africa's contribution to regional and global sustainability would be minimal if this inadequacy is not addressed,

1. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that in the implementation of the programme emphasis is placed on the following areas of major concern to Africa, which are included in the 1996-1997 programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme:

(a) Land resources:

(i) Support for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,⁴⁵ adopted in Paris on 17 June 1994, particularly the urgent actions for Africa; and

(ii) Conservation and rehabilitation strategies in conflict areas;

(b) Water resources:

(i) Strengthening African inland water management groups and regional technical cooperation networks;

(ii) Reclamation and rehabilitation of African lakes and wetland areas;

(c) Biological resources: promotion of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁵⁸ and related programmes in Africa;

(d) Coastal and marine resources:

(i) Updated inventory of coastal and marine resources of four African regional seas programmes;

(ii) Ratified and implemented African regional seas conventions and protocols;

(e) Major groups: support to the African preparations for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women;

(f) Global and regional servicing and support:

(i) Support to the programmes of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and capacity-building of its secretariat;

(ii) Strengthening of the Regional Office for Africa;

(iii) Focus on capacity-building, especially greater support and training for implementing post-Rio national plans, environmental management systems, policies, programmes, international environmental conventions, regional agreements, protocols, treaties and conventions, and new national laws/frameworks for environmental protection;

(iv) Public awareness, information and participation programmes, including those aimed at providing tangible opportunities for working with major groups, especially women, youth, and local communities in the implementation of decisions of the Governing Council;

2. Also requests the Executive Director to implement the above activities within available resources;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on the implementation of the present decision.

10th meeting

26 May 1995

B. Technical cooperation among African countries for the building and utilization of capacities and for mobilization of resources for sustainable development in Africa

The Governing Council,

Cognizant of the urgent need to promote environmental management and sustainable development in the African region,

Recognizing that African countries need to develop and fully utilize internal capacities and fully mobilize resources available in the region as the driving force in attaining desirable levels of environmental management and sustainable development,

Conscious of the central position that internal capacity-building and utilization and resource mobilization would play in environmental management and sustainable development, especially when supplemented by external capacities, where necessary,

Aware of the successes made in capacity-building and resource mobilization through the technical cooperation among developing countries mechanism and desirous to bring similar benefits closer home to Africa in the field of environmental management and sustainable development,

Convinced of the need for support for technical cooperation among African countries to contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21¹ in the region through capacity-building and utilization measures,

Considering the position of the Conference of Ministers of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa on the subject of technical cooperation among African countries during its twenty-first session, held in Addis Ababa in May 1995,

Cognizant of Africa's disadvantaged role in the global political economy and hence the need for such initiatives and mechanisms to help lift Africa and place her on the path towards full participation in the global human development endeavour,

1. Urges the Executive Director:

(a) To work closely in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme to increase and focus support for technical cooperation among African countries in the field of environmental management and sustainable development through appropriate capacity-building and utilization measures and mechanisms, and, within available resources, to urge the United Nations Development Programme to explore the possibility of opening a special window for technical cooperation among African countries within the framework of the technical cooperation among developing countries mechanism as a starting point;

(b) To facilitate measures for promoting technical cooperation among African countries and capacity-building and utilization in the field of environmental management and sustainable development for the African region;

(c) To collaborate with the United Nations Development Programme in seeking support for the mobilization of resources from within the United Nations system, bilateral and multilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to facilitate the development and implementation of further measures for technical cooperation among African countries;

2. Further urges:

- (a) Other members of the United Nations system, multilateral and bilateral agencies, international non-governmental organizations and the private sector to render concrete support to measures to promote technical cooperation among African countries in the field of environmental management and sustainable development
- (b) African Governments, local non-governmental organizations, universities and foundations and the local private sector also to support technical cooperation among African countries;
3. Requests the Executive Director to urge:
- (a) The Economic Commission for Africa to incorporate environmental management and sustainable development into its capacity-building and utilization initiative for Africa;
- (b) The Organization of African Unity and the subregional organizations (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Economic Community of West African States, Economic Community of Central African States, Arab Maghreb Union, Southern African Development Community, Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel) to incorporate measures and mechanisms for technical cooperation among African countries and capacity-building and utilization for Africa into the programming of their resource mobilization and policy design strategies;
4. Authorizes the Executive Director:
- (a) To request the United Nations Development Programme to carry out a comprehensive study of the feasibility, modalities, approaches, appropriate measures and resource requirements for the successful implementation of technical cooperation among African countries and to collaborate closely with the United Nations Environment Programme on those aspects of the study relating to environmental management and sustainable development;
- (b) To request the United Nations Development Programme to present the report of the study to the Economic and Social Council at its 1996 session for policy debate;
- (c) To report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on the results of these efforts as they relate to the field of environmental management and sustainable development.

10th meeting

26 May 1995

C. *Programmes of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the regional programme for West Asia*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/28 of 21 May 1993 in which it requested the Executive Director, inter alia, to continue her efforts to link the implementation of the regional programmes undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme with other international organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme and the regional economic commissions, in a coordinated manner,

Recalling also its decision 16/33 of 31 May 1991, in which it requested the Executive Director, inter alia, to encourage ways and means of facilitating the transfer and acquisition of technology by the developing countries in respect of cleaner production and its techniques,

Recalling further Agenda 21¹ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly chapter 34 on the transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation

and capacity-building, and chapter 38 on international institutional arrangements, as well as its chapter 1, which calls for cooperation and implementation at the regional and subregional levels,

Noting the possibilities of improving and activating environmental activities in the Arab region, in general, and in West Asia, in particular, especially in the areas of capacity-building, provision and exchange of information, improving public awareness and education and combating desertification and pollution,

Expressing its appreciation of the results achieved by the cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment,

Recognizing the role of the Arab League Liaison Office in Cairo, in support of the cooperation between the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, and the United Nations Environment Programme and its regional offices,

Requests the Executive Director to support, within available resources, the goals and aims of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the Regional Office for West Asia, with particular reference to support for Arab priority project proposals within the framework of Arab programmes for sustainable development approved for implementation by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and Regional Office for West Asia.

10th meeting

26 May 1995

D. North-East Asia Regional Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/28 of 21 May 1993, in which it, inter alia, requested the Executive Director to continue making efforts to link the implementation of the regional programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme in a coordinated manner with other international organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme and the regional economic commissions,

Recalling also its decision 16/33 of 31 May 1991, in which it, inter alia, called upon the Executive Director to promote the identification of ways and means to facilitate access by and transfer of technology to developing countries in respect of cleaner production methods, techniques and technologies,

Further recalling the Agenda 21 programme of action¹ as adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly its chapter 34 (Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building), and chapter 38 (International institutional arrangements), section I, on regional and subregional cooperation and implementation,

Noting with appreciation the collaborating work of six Governments of the North-East Asian subregion, namely, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation, through senior officials' meetings on environmental cooperation in North-East Asia, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, substantively supported by the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme, and supported technically by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank,

Taking into account the deliberations of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its fifty-first session, held from 24 April to 1 May 1995 on, inter alia, the subject of the North-East Asia Regional Environment Programme,

Requests the Executive Director to support fully, within available resources, the aims and objectives of the North-East Asia Regional Environment Programme so as to carry out the catalytic and coordinating

role of the United Nations Environment Programme through its strengthened regional office in Thailand and also its International Environmental Technology Centre in Japan, particularly in its work programme of the biennium 1996-1997, inter alia, by:

- (a) Technical and financial support to the third meeting on environmental cooperation in North-East Asia, scheduled to be held in early 1996 in Mongolia; and
- (b) Technical support to the priority project proposals unanimously adopted by the second meeting on environmental cooperation in North-East Asia for implementation.

9th meeting 25 May 1995

E. Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region

The Governing Council,

Noting the provisions of Agenda 21,¹ in particular its chapter 17, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,²⁸ and the international efforts towards a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,

Recognizing the importance of these provisions for the large coastal populations in the South Asian Seas region,

Taking into account the needs of the peoples in the region, particularly in the marine and coastal areas of the five maritime States of the region, namely, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka,

Also noting that the five above-mentioned States have agreed on an Action Plan and have made financial commitments for its implementation,

Calls upon the Executive Director:

- (a) To give due attention, within the context of the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, to the further development and implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region⁹
- (b) To provide, within available resources, adequate finances and staff time for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region.

10th meeting

26 May 1995

⁹ See Final Act of the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region, New Delhi, 24 March 1995.

17/20 Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities

91. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the council, chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21/Add.2, draft decision 11), prepar subject submitted by the committee on the basis of an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by the committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.7 annex, draft decision 6).

92. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

16/26 - Oceans and coastal areas

A. *Marine pollution from land-based sources*

The Governing Council.

Taking note of paragraphs 4 and 6 of decision 1/20 of 31 August 1990 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, "5 by which the Committee invited the United Nations Environment Programme, in co-operation with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to consider making an evaluation of proposals for the further development of scientific, technical and financial co-operation for the protection of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution and to consider undertaking an evaluation of the 1985 Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution,

Taking note also of paragraph 5 of Preparatory Committee decision 2/18 by which the Committee notes with appreciation that the United Nations Environment Programme is preparing a proposal on strategy options and actions to reduce the effects of land-based sources of pollution, including, inter alia, sewage-related discharges and other activities threatening marine and coastal environment,

Taking note further of the outcome of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution, held in Halifax, Canada, from 6 to 10 May 1991,

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea⁴⁷ for the protection of the marine environment,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue the preparation of elements for draft strategy options and actions to reduce the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities, in close co-operation with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, other United Nations organizations and taking fully into account the experience gained by the regional seas programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme and by other regional co-operative programmes on efforts to reduce the degradation of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution and activities in coastal areas as well as the outcome of the Halifax meeting;

2. Decides to invite the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session to give policy guidance to a meeting of Government-designated experts to be convened to formulate a draft strategy, including a targeted and costed programme of action for reduction of the degradation of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution and activities in coastal areas;

45 See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No.46 (A/45/46), annex I.

46 See Environmental Law Guidelines and Principles No.7 (United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, 1985).

47 Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales

No. E.84. v.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

3. Authorizes the Executive Director to convene, subject to the availability of resources, such a meeting and to initiate preparations without delay;
4. Further authorizes the Executive Director to complete a targeted and costed action programme for the Mediterranean as an input to the strategy and as an example for the preparation of an international study, in view of the comprehensive data which already exist for that area and the very limited time available;
5. Further requests the Executive Director to report on the outcome of the meeting of Government-designated experts, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session;
6. Endorses the co-sponsorship of the intergovernmental panel on global investigation of pollution in the marine environment by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization.

8th meeting

31 May 1991

B. Strategies for the protection and development of the oceans and coastal areas

The Governing Council.

Having reviewed the note of the Executive Director transmitting the draft highlights of a report on strategies for the protection and development of the oceans and coastal areas, commissioned in a joint effort by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, '8

1. Welcomes the continuing co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission on the preparation of strategies for the protection and development of the oceans and coastal areas;
2. Approves the completion of the strategy document by the United Nations Environment Programme, in co-operation with the Intergovernmental oceanographic Commission, as an important input to the planning of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Intergovernmental oceanographic Commission and other parts of the United Nations system;
3. Requests the Executive Director to arrange for the completed document to be submitted to the Governing Council at its next regular session and the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its fourth session, through the appropriate channel.

C. Expansion to the Central American Pacific of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the south-east Pacific

The Governing Council.

Aware that the countries of the south-east Pacific - Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru - have since 1981 been implementing the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the south-east Pacific, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and coordinated by the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific,

Also aware that the Action Plan has been a beneficial experience for the region that should be broadened and shared in other areas with similar environmental conditions,

Having in mind that one Central American Government and other Central American forums have expressed an interest in having the Action Plan for the south-east Pacific expanded and that this interest is shared by the countries participating in the Action Plan,

1. Requests the Executive Director to initiate action to facilitate the expansion to the Central American Pacific of the Action Plan for the south-east Pacific;
2. Also requests the Executive Director to consider the possibility of providing the resources required for undertaking the necessary action to facilitate the expansion of the Action Plan.

16/27 - Sea-level rise

- A. *Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas*

The Governing Council

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas. '

8th meeting

31 May 1991

- B. *Sea-level rise vulnerability assessments*

The Governing Council.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/206 of 22 December 1989 on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying areas, by paragraph 3 of which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological organization and, through them, the 49 A/46/156 - E/1991/54, transmitted to the Governing Council by a note of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/18).

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to take account in their work of the particular situation of islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas, by undertaking further scientific studies and by seeking ways to address the problems of sea-level rise, inter alia, by providing expertise, as requested, in accordance with their specific mandates, for improved management of coastal zones,

Recalling Governing Council decision 15136 of 25 May 1989 on global climate change, in which the Council recommended the institution of programmes and measures of assistance that would make it possible for developing countries to better manage the impacts of global climate change,

Acknowledging that the First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, adopted in August 1990, predicts that sea-level may rise between three to ten centimetres a decade under the business-as-usual emissions scenario and that, even if greenhouse gas emissions were reduced, there would still be a continuing need to address sea-level rise,

Noting that the First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change also recommended options for adapting to the coastal impacts of global climate change, including identification of areas potentially at risk from sea-level rise and development of comprehensive

management plans to reduce future vulnerability of populations, coastal developments and ecosystems as part of coastal zone management.

Recalling the recommendations of the Ministerial Declaration of the Second World Climate Conference of November 1990 and, in particular, paragraph 8 thereof, Conscious of decisions by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at its fifth plenary session, in March 1991, to assess vulnerability to sea-level rise and other potential impacts of climate change, identify adaptive responses, bearing in mind cost-benefit analysis in the short and long run, and identify implementation requirements in conjunction with the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting the intention of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to complete by April 1992 an update of its First Assessment Report, including the results of the sea-level rise vulnerability assessment project, and to present it to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in June 1992,

Noting the leading role of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in implementing the Global Ocean Observing System,

1. Urges Governments, United Nations specialized agencies, particularly the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and international organizations, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support fully and participate in the activities of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme to assess the vulnerability to sea-level rise of developing countries, particularly small island countries, low-lying coastal states and other small islands;

2. Requests that the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme should facilitate the building by developing countries of their own capability to assess their vulnerability to sea-level rise and other potential impacts of climate change, identify appropriate response strategies, and develop integrated coastal management plans in association with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and in accordance with the recommendations made at the Panel's fifth plenary

Recognizing that natural disasters constitute a developmental and environmental problem of great magnitude, the solution of which calls for substantial resources, requiring national efforts to be supplemented by international financial and technical assistance,

Recognizing also the magnitude of the relief and rehabilitation efforts that the Government of Bangladesh has to undertake to alleviate the suffering of disaster victims and to restore the environment,

Noting the appeal to the international community by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to come forward in aid of those affected by the disastrous cyclone,

Noting also General Assembly resolution 45/263 of 13 May 1991 on assistance to Bangladesh in the wake of the devastating cyclone,

1. Expresses its solidarity with the Government and people of Bangladesh during the tragic aftermath of the disaster;

2. Urges the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide and facilitate obtaining all possible assistance in short- and long-term measures, within available resources, for the protection of the environment in Bangladesh, including an urgent case-study by the United Nations Environment Programme on the coastal areas of Bangladesh within the context of ongoing activities of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change/Interim Steering Committee on Vulnerability

Assessment and Coastal Zone Management and of the United Nations Environment Programme in this field.

3. Appeals to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to extend all possible assistance to Bangladesh to mitigate the suffering of the victims and to prevent further consequences of the environmental disaster.

15/27 Precautionary approach to marine pollution, including waste-dumping at sea

The Governing Council,

Aware of the threat to the marine environment from a variety of polluting sources, aware of the need to protect marine biological diversity,

Recognizing that waiting for scientific proof regarding the impact of pollutants discharged into the marine environment may result in irreversible damage to the marine environment and in human suffering,

Also aware that policies allowing uncontrolled discharges of pollutants

Taking note of global conventions such as the 1972 Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, the 1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and its Protocol of 1978, and the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and regional conventions, such as the 1972 Oslo Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft, the 1974 Paris Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources, the conventions adopted in connection with the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as other relevant conventions,

Noting that the Second International Conference on the Protection of the North Sea held in London from 24 to 25 November 1987, adopted the "principle of precautionary action" 64/ and that some other Governments have adopted and begun to implement preventive policies for the safety of human health and the environment,

1. Recommends that all Governments adopt the "principle of precautionary action" as the basis of their policy with regard to the prevention and elimination of marine pollution;
2. Urges all Governments eligible to do so, but who have not yet done so, to become contracting parties to all relevant conventions;
3. Further urges the international community to work actively towards the complete elimination of the practice of dumping of pollutants liable to endanger the marine environment

12th meeting

25 May 1989

13/25 - Marine pollution

The Governing Council

Recalling section VIII of its decision 12/12 of 28 May 1984

Recalling the progress made in assessing marine pollution problems and in developing methodologies, reference methods and guidelines required. For such assessments, as reflected in the 1984 Annual Report of the Executive Director, 44/

Recognizing the valuable contribution made by the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine pollution as the principal United Nations inter-agency mechanism for reviewing scientific aspects of marine pollution.

Noting further the significant progress made in adopting action plans and regional agreements for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment, as described in the 1984 Annual Report of the Executive Director, 44/

Urges the Executive Director to continue, in co-operation with relevant United Nations bodies, including the International Atomic Energy, to contribute to the global debate on the environmental implications of the disposal of radioactive and other hazardous wastes at sea;

Calls upon the Executive Director to complete the preparatory phase leading to the adoption of action plans and regional conventions for those regions where such action plans and conventions have yet to be adopted (the Eastern African region, the South Asian Seas region and the South Pacific region) and to continue to assist states to implement the adopted action plans and agreements in all other regions;

Urges the Executive Director, in co-operation with other relevant United Nations bodies, to make every effort to strengthen interregional co-operation so as to promote the exchange of information and experience and to contribute to the protection of the global marine environment

10/20 - Expansion and implementation of the regional seas Programme

The Governing Council

Recalling recommendations of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment 32 and 33 on mammals, 46 to 48 on international co-operation in the field of living marine resources, and 86 to 91 on the monitoring and study of marine pollution, its effects and appropriate remedies

Recalling its own decisions 82 (V), 6/2, 8/13 and 9/17.

Recalling the recommendations of intergovernmental conference on the marine environment, including the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Co-operation in the protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central Africa Region, 33/

Recalling also the recommendations of the meeting of Government Experts on Regional Marine Programme, held at Nairobi in January 1982, 34/

Considering the urgent need to protect fragile coastal ecosystems and the serious problem of coastline erosion

Welcoming all the regional action plans already adopted and new action plans to be adopted for the environmental protection of regional seas.

Noting also the establishment of the South Asia Co-operative Environment, which inter alia refers to action concerning a regional seas Programme.

1. Requests the Executive Director to enter into consultations with the concerned States of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme to ascertain their views regarding the conduct of a regional seas Programme in the South Asia seas;
2. Urges all member States to give fullest support to the adoption and ratification of relevant conventions and protocols for the protection and development of the regional marine environment and coastal areas;
3. Invites participating member states to pay their contributions in support of the implementation of the regional action plans;
4. Urges all Governments, the organizations of the United Nations system, and other intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations to extend their full support to the countries concerned in their efforts to combat coastal erosion and marine pollution;
5. Calls upon the Executive Director to provide adequate funds to the regional seas programs;
6. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its eleventh session on the implementation of the present decision.

10/23 Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

The Governing Council

Records its satisfaction at the results of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea specifically in respect of protection and preservation of the marine environment, as an essential contribution to the progressive development, and codification of international law in the field of the environment

9/17 Oceans: regional seas

Implementation of Governing Council decisions 7/8 of 3 May 1979 and 8/13 B of 29 April 1980

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 7/8 of 3 May 1979 and 8/13 B of 29 April 1980,

Recognizing once again the extensive geographical scope and multidisciplinary character of the regional seas programmes conducted under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme, which provide an effective contribution to the protection of the marine environment on the world level,

Underlining the very positive results achieved in the implementation of the various regional seas programmes already under way,

Welcoming the implementation of the new regional seas programmes adopted since the last session of the Governing Council,

Recognizing also the primordial importance of these programmes for the protection of endangered marine and coastal ecosystems,

1. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To apply the provisions of Governing Council decision 7/8 of 3 May 1979, notably that concerning the biennium 1980-1981;

(b) To give effect to Governing Council decision 8/13 B of 29 April 1980, particularly the provisions requesting the Executive Director, whenever appropriate, to make funds available from all relevant budgetary lines for those activities undertaken in the framework of the regional seas programmes which relate specifically to the work plan approved under such lines;

2. Decides that, in execution of the medium-term plan and within the framework of the budget, increased attention should be paid to the chapters dealing with regional seas, with a view to attaining the objectives defined in the various regional seas programmes, including the implementation of those recently approved.

9th meeting

26 May 1981

8/13 Implementation of Governing Council decision 8/13 C of 29 April 1980

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 8/13 C of 29 April 1980 on the extension of the regional seas programme,

Noting the report of the Executive Director on the progress made in the implementation of the above decision,

1. Expresses satisfaction at the progress made so far in the implementation of its decision 8/13 C of 29 April 1980;
2. Requests the Executive Director to complete the draft action plans being prepared in that connexion for consideration by Governments at the earliest practicable date;
3. Urges the Governments of the respective regions to extend maximum co-operation to the Executive Director in the Implementation of this decision.

8/13 Oceans, Regional seas

A. Review of the regional seas programme

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind that considerable experience has been accumulated in the last five years in the subject area of regional seas which may contribute to the understanding of the global problems of marine pollution,

Recognizing the significance of the work in the field of the marine environment which is being carried out by several international and intergovernmental organizations, and the need for closer co-ordination of these activities,

Requests the Executive Director to:

- (a) Consider convening in 1981, in co-operation with relevant international and intergovernmental organizations a government expert group to review the activities, the achievements and the planned development of the regional seas programme, and of other comparable programmes sponsored by other bodies-
- (b) Report on the results of the expert group meeting to the Governing Council at its tenth session.

12th meeting

29 April 1980

B. Co-ordination of the regional seas programme with other components of the environment programme

The Governing Council,

Considering the need for worldwide co-operation to control pollution of the seas in order to safeguard marine and coastal resources,

Bearing in mind that environmentally sound management of coastal zones, including the control of pollution from land-based sources, is the basic prerequisite for protection and management of the marine and coastal environment,

Acknowledging the wide geographical coverage and the interdisciplinary character of the eight regional seas programmes sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme, which effectively contribute to worldwide protection of the marine environment,

Considering the need to examine the administrative and budgetary arrangements by which the regional seas programmes are implemented and coordinated with other components of the environment programme,

Requests the Executive Director:

- (a) To accelerate the effective implementation of the regional seas programmes
- (b) Whenever appropriate, to make funds available from all relevant budgetary lines for those activities undertaken in the framework of the regional seas programmes which relate specifically to the work plan approved under such lines;
- (c) To examine the relationship between the regional seas programmes and environmental programmes of a regional character, and to report to the Governing Council at its ninth session on ways in which the regional seas programmes may be strengthened and coordinated more effectively with other components of the environment programme.

12th meeting 29 April 1980

C. Extension of the regional seas programme to the East African sea and the South-west Atlantic

The Governing Council,

Considering the threat to the marine environment in the East African region and the South-west Atlantic, Bearing in mind the resolution adopted in November 1979 at Seychelles by the East African Port Management Association calling upon international organizations to support Governments in the East African region in developing a programme for the protection of the marine environment in the East African region,

Welcoming the establishment of the regional seas Programme by the United Nations Environment Programme,

1. Requests the Executive Director to include the East African and South-west Atlantic regions within the regional seas programme with a view to initiating and carrying out, in collaboration with the Governments concerned and the competent organizations of the United Nations system, a programme for proper management and conservation of the resources in these areas;
2. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at ninth session on progress made in the implementation of this decision.

12th meeting

SEVENTH SESSION

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.

7.14 Matters relating to the environment fund

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

6/7 **Oceans**

A. *Marine pollution*

The Governing Council.

Concerned at the increasing frequency and extent of accidents causing pollution of the marine environment, recently exemplified by the unprecedented “Amoco Cadiz” disaster,

Mindful of the need to avoid the recurrence of such disaster, which have harmful consequences on the coastal marine environment and the human environment in general,

48/ UNEP/GC.6/7/Add.1.

Invites the General Assembly to consider for adoption the following draft resolution:

“The General Assembly”

“Mindful of the grave dangers posed to the marine environment by the shipping of oil and other dangerous substances,

“Regretting that the various measures to ensure the safety of navigation by the observance of the existing international regulations are not applied stringently by all Member States,

“Considering that the conservation of the marine environment represents objectives for mankind,

1. Urges that the competent International institutions and organization, such as the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, expedite and intensify their activities relating to the prevention and the determination and responsibilities in this matter;

2. Calls upon State Parties to the 1954 Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by oil to discharge fully their obligation under the convention and in particular to ensure that national legislation adopted is sufficiently stringent to a genuine centerrent effect:

3. Urges Member States to examine the possibility of ratifying at the earliest opportunity international conventions designed to ensure better protection of the marine environment and improve the safety of navigation (ILO Convention No. 147 of 1976 Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at sea, the 1973 convention for the Prevention of pollution by ships and the 1974 convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, among others);

4. Urges all states to co-operate in order to implement material measures for the effective combating of marine pollution

14th meeting

24 May 1978

B. *Regional seas programme: the Mediterranean*

The Governing Council.

Considering that the successful achievements of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of protection of the environment in the Mediterranean region afford a concrete example of both the integrated approach and the proper co-ordinating role that should be the major concern of the programme in its activities,

Considering that the experience gained during the preparation and implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan should be useful in other regional seas programmes,

Recalling its observation, in its decision 50 (IV) of 13 April 1976 on Programme and Fund programme activities, on the need for the progressive transfer of executive responsibility for the Mediterranean Action Plan to the Governments of the region,

Taking into account the report of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States on the Mediterranean Action Plan,

Recognizing, however, that open-ended commitments of monies from the environment Fund for administrative responsibilities are inconsistent with the catalytic role of the programme,

1. Calls upon the Mediterranean coastal states involved in the Mediterranean Action Plan to make increasing financial responsibility for the secretariat costs, with the objective of assuming full financial responsibility for such costs at the earliest possible date, and no later than the end of 1983;
2. Invites, nevertheless, the Mediterranean coastal states to submit to the environment fund proposals for research and other projects which would assist in the effective implementation of the plan;
3. Urges the Executive Director to seek ways of supplementing the Oceans budget line from within existing resources, to meet the legitimate requests of various regional seas programmes.

88. (V) Oceans

A. *International conventions against marine pollution*

The Governing Council,

Considering the desirability of promoting any measure designed to reduce pollution of the seas,

Further considering that a number of international conventions have been concluded for this purpose,

Considering nevertheless that the application of these conventions is still limited, in that not all interested States have yet become parties to them,

Recommends that States which have not yet acceded to these conventions do so as soon as possible.

75th meeting

25 May 1977

B. *Whaling*

The Governing Council,

Noting that the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment called for the International Whaling Commission to adopt a 10-year moratorium on commercial whaling and called for Governments to strengthen the Commission and to increase international research efforts, 34/ and that the Governing Council had repeatedly endorsed these recommendations, 15:/

34/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E-73-II.A.14, chap. II, recommendation 33.

35/ Decisions 1 (I), para. 12 (e) (vii), of 22 June 1973, 33 (III) of 2 May 1975 and 59 (IV) of 13 April 1976.

Norway, in 1976, regarding the continuing need for improved information about whale and cetacean stocks,

1. Welcomes the efforts of the International Whaling Commission in the field of conservation and management of whales;

2. Requests the Executive Director to call upon the International Whaling Commission at its twenty-ninth session to agree on the dates for the planned conference concerning new arrangements for the effective conservation of all cetaceans;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to extend the support, as appropriate, to research activities with respect to the conservation and effective management to conserve whales and other cetaceans.

75th meeting,

25 May 1977

C. *Regional seas programme: Africa*

The Governing Council,

Considering the increased importance which should be attached to regional seas programmes,

Aware of the acute threat posed to the marine environment by pollution in the Gulf of Guinea,

Noting with satisfaction the action taken by the Executive Director in sending a mission to the region to undertake exploratory studies on the subject of marine pollution, 36/

Determined to combat marine pollution in the region in accordance with existing international conventions,

Recognizing, that the elimination of pollution in the marine environment requires broad international co-operation and technical and scientific resources,

Considering that necessary steps should be undertaken for the development of an action plan and a regional agreement to prevent and abate pollution in the Gulf of Guinea,

1. Authorizes the Executive Director to pursue action in this area by convening, before the sixth session of the Governing Council, in co-operation with the Governments, the Ocean Economics and Technology Office of the United Nations Secretariat and other United Nations bodies and governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, such meetings as may be necessary to prepare for a regional conference of the States concerned, which will consider a draft action plan and all related questions;

2. Requests the Executive Director, to this end, to provide the technical and financial support of the Programme necessary for the preparation and holding of the necessary meetings.

75th meeting

25 May 1977

Regional seas programme: Asia

The Governing Council,

Noting with approval the activities implemented by the Executive Director in accordance with Governing Council decisions 50 (IV) and 58 (IV) of 13 April 1976, 37/

Having considered the report submitted by the Executive Director to the Governing Council at its fifth session,

Noting also the positive interest manifested by the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand in developing a scientific programme for the management of their seas,

Observing that this programme, although regional in character, could have results that are of broader significance,

1. Decides that steps are urgently needed to formulate and establish a scientific programme involving research, prevention and control of marine pollution and monitoring for this regional seas programme;

2. Invites the Executive Director to assist the countries concerned, as soon as possible, with the preparatory and other work required for this purpose;

3. Authorizes the Executive Director to apply such resources as may be required in conjunction with the appropriate specialized organizations of the United Nations system.

FORTH SESSION

58 (IV) Programme priorities for action by the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on the review of activities relating to the environment programme, the review of the status of the programme and proposed Fund programme activities, 1976-1977, 24^{3/}

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

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

1. Decides that immediate steps are necessary to protect the marine area mentioned above from pollution by oil from ships and sea-bed exploration and exploitation, and from pollution resulting from industrialization in the context of development activities;
2. Authorizes the Executive Director to pursue these objectives aided by any other specialized organization of the United Nations;
3. Approves the action of the Government of Kuwait in proceeding with preparatory work for convening a regional conference to protect the area in question against pollution, which may give rise to an agreement entitled:

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

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

57th meeting

13 April 1976

59 (IV) Protection of whales

The Governing Council,

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

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

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

25 (III) Protection of the marine environment: Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

The Governing Council.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3133 (XXVIII) of 13 December 1973 on the protection of the marine environment,

Bearing in mind its decision 8 (II) of 22 March 1974, in which it urged the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea to attach importance to its work relating to the preservation of the marine environment, and the subsequent statement made by the Executive Director on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Third Conference on the Law of the Sea at its second session at Caracas, Deeply concerned that the development of ocean resources, including the sea-bed, not be accompanied by degradation of the marine environment, its life-supporting systems and its living resources,

Convinced that draft, treaty articles for the protection of the marine environment should be produced before the end of the current session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea at Geneva,

1. Urges the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea to attach the highest priority to its efforts to incorporate in the draft treaties under its consideration effective provisions for the protection of the marine environment;
2. Directs the President, on behalf of the Governing Council, to communicate the text of the present decision immediately to the President of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea at Geneva.

32 (III) Oceans: Monitoring

The Governing Council.

Considering that inadequate knowledge of the physical, chemical and biological aspects of the oceans exists upon which to base environmental assessments of the impact of man's activities upon the oceans and their living resources,

Further considering that only meagre knowledge exists on the role of the oceans in regulating climate,

Decides that the proposed programme of the Executive Director for oceans should:

- (a) Include ocean baseline stations, analogous to the atmospheric baseline stations, which could take the form of island stations, data buoys or ships of opportunity;
- (b) Assist in the expansion of the Integrated Global Ocean Station System to include other pollutants in addition to petroleum hydrocarbons;
- (c) Support education and training efforts that should enhance the participation of developing nations and thus improve the over-all effectiveness of the oceans programme.

33 **(III) Oceans: Conservation of marine mammals**

The Governing Council.

Noting that the Executive Director is providing support for the studies of the interagency Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research,

Recognizing that a need exists to preserve marine ecosystems and to ensure the continued survival of different stocks of marine mammals,

Noting that the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment called for the International Whaling Commission to adopt a 10-year moratorium on commercial whaling and called for Governments to strengthen the Commission and to increase international research efforts, and that the Governing Council at its first meeting endorsed these recommendations, 20/

1. Requests the Executive Director to support the interagency Advisory Committee's Working Party on Marine Mammals and its symposium, scheduled to be held in 1976;
2. Further requests the Executive Director to support research on marine mammal populations and on whales and small cetaceans in particular.

SECOND SESSION

I. Priority Subject Areas of the Programme

4. Oceans

- (a) In view of the many activities of numerous other agencies in this field, the United Nations Development Programme should concentrate on the co-ordination of these activities and on the protection of the marine environment.
- (b) Priority should be given to regional activities, with the possible establishment of programme activity centres in the Mediterranean. The importance of activities in the Caribbean, the Baltic, the Persian Gulf, the Indonesian and Philippines archipelagoes, and parts of the Atlantic and Pacific was stressed.
- (c) The Programme should encourage and support the preparation of regional agreements or conventions on the protection of specific bodies of water from pollution, particularly from land-based sources. High priority should be given to supporting activities to protect living resources and prevent pollution in the Mediterranean.
- (d) The survey of living marine resources called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 3133 (XXVIII) should be begun immediately by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on behalf of the Programme.
- (e) The Programme should make a constructive contribution to the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. The Conference is urged to continue to attach importance to its work relating to the preservation of the marine environment taking into account, in particular, the contents of General Assembly resolution 3133 (XXVIII) on the protection of the marine environment and the positions of Member States as expressed during the debate and on the adoption of that resolution of the General Assembly.
- (f) The Programme should promote the study, conservation and wise management of living resources, including whales and other marine mammals. Research should also be encouraged on the effects of climate on the oceans and their resources, on the effects of pollution on living organisms and on ocean dynamics as a factor in pollution transport.

III. Report of Sessional Committee I

Oceans

69. The Committee emphasized the importance of this area of the programme, generally supported the actions proposed by the Executive Director and placed special emphasis on regional activities. It urged the need for UNEP to co-ordinate the activities of the numerous agencies concerned with the marine environment, while maintaining its independent position. The view was expressed that, since other organizations were dealing with exploitation, UNEP should concentrate on the protection of the marine environment, and should be extremely selective in its choice of programmes, in order to avoid duplication.

70. The need for exchange of knowledge and information was stressed, as was the need for providing training and technical assistance to increase the capabilities of developing countries in the marine

sciences. One delegation felt that action in the latter area should await the results of the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

71. There was general agreement that monitoring of the marine environment was an essential component of the programme work in this subject area. Reference was made in particular to the monitoring of persistent toxic pesticides. The need was felt for more assessments on a global basis concerning the state of the oceans and for a comprehensive oceanic research programme which would cover physical processes occurring in the oceans and the effects of marine pollution on living marine organisms, as well as ocean dynamics as a factor in pollution transport.

72. Some representatives pointed to the need to include in the programme studies of the effects of climatic changes on the oceans and their resources, as well as the role of oceans in the climatic system.

73. The need for promoting regional assessment activities was emphasized, and particular mention was made of areas such as the Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf, the Baltic, the Caribbean, parts of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the South-East Asian coastline and the Indonesian and Philippine Archipelagoes. As regards the Baltic, assessment activities were expected to take place within the context of the Helsinki Convention, to be signed before the end of March 1974. It was suggested that UNEP should initiate a programme for assessing pollution in the North-East Atlantic and provide the technical groundwork for a pilot project to monitor pollution in the Atlantic. A study of the climatic and other factors which had reduced fish stocks in the South Pacific was also advocated. The view was expressed that regional assessment should cover pollution, living resources, particularly those yielding protein, and the resources of the sea-bed.

74. There was general agreement that regional agreements or conventions for the protection from pollution of specific bodies of water, such as the Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf, the Caribbean, the South Pacific and the Malacca Straits, constituted an effective means for the control of marine pollution as well as the conservation of living resources in these areas. It was therefore considered that UNEP should encourage and support the preparation of such conventions.

75. The desirability of establishing a programme activity centre or centres in the Mediterranean was indicated, and assistance was requested in the preparation of a regional convention on land-based pollution and the protection of living marine resources. A centre was suggested which could be strengthened to serve as a monitoring centre for the western Mediterranean. One delegation referred to the need to combat pollution in the South-East Atlantic. Reference was also made to the need for action to deal with eutrophication in brackish seas, and for work on the problems of semi-enclosed and enclosed seas, estuaries and offshore areas.

76. In relation to the control of land-based sources of marine pollution, stress was placed on the need to take account of the input of pollutants discharged from the land, rivers and estuaries. One representative felt that the value of the registry of clean rivers would be limited unless the States whose rivers were included in such a registry undertook to continue to keep them clean, and proposed that an agreement should be concluded for that purpose. Other representatives thought that this registry, while important, was not essential and did not at present merit high priority, while one expressed the view that sufficient knowledge was not yet available for the scientific assessment of the impact of pollution from land-based sources on the marine environment.

77. One delegation suggested that in connection with the specific action proposed for the interdisciplinary referral system covering marine pollution data and, scientific information, note should be taken of the work of the Joint Task Team on Interdisciplinary and Inter-organization Data and Information Management and Referral.

78. In connection with programme activities on assessment, the importance of IAEA discharging its designated responsibilities under annexes 1 and 2 of the London Convention of 1972 on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matters was stressed, and the possibility of UNEP assistance to it was mentioned.

79. It was suggested that the programme should include a study of the behaviour of pollutants in warm waters. Some representatives felt that the proposal by the Marine Environment Protection Committee of IMCO at its first session for the establishment of a working group to undertake a scientific evaluation of hazards of toxic substances could create a danger of duplication of the work of the Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution. The representative of IMCO said the matter would be raised with the Group of Experts.

80. There was general agreement that UNEP should play an active role in the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea so as to ensure that the protection of the marine environment and its living resources was adequately taken into consideration in the work of that Conference. One delegation felt that UNEP should await the decisions of the Conference before planning any programme activities concerned with the legal aspects of marine pollution.

81. Some representatives stated that the Conference on the Law of the Sea should provide a comprehensive legal framework for the protection of the marine environment or, the basis of the Declaration and Recommendations and the principles on the protection of the marine environment agreed by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment ^{a/} at Stockholm. In this connection, the point was made that UNEP should develop the rules for liability and compensation for damage caused to the marine environment in the area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, with particular reference to the legal status of claims and the manner of determining and assessing compensation.

82. Many representatives noted that a number of the conventions concluded for the protection of the marine environment had not yet come into force because of delays in their acceptance by States, and suggested that UNEP should urge Governments to remedy that situation.

83. Discussion of the protection of living marine resources centered on General Assembly resolution 3133 (XXVIII), and there was general agreement that work on the required survey should proceed immediately in co-operation with FAO (which should play a leading part), in view of the requirement in the resolution that a report was to be submitted to the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly and to the third session of the Governing Council. It was also considered that the results of the survey would constitute a valuable input to the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. One delegation suggested that UNEP should assist countries whose protein resources were being depleted by the activities of foreign fishing fleets in their territorial waters.

84. It was pointed out that the programme should be oriented not only towards the protection of living marine resources but also towards their conservation and planned exploitation; full implementation of resolution 3133 (XXVIII) by UNEP would constitute an important step towards the reduction of hunger and malnutrition in the world.

85. There was general concern over the limited progress made towards whale conservation since the Stockholm Conference, which had urged that whale stocks should be protected and that UNEP should take action towards this end. One delegation urged the imposition of a ban on commercial whaling. Another delegation stressed that, since conservation measures for several species of whales and fur seals were being adequately taken by appropriate international organizations, the action by UNEP should be taken in respect of aquatic mammals other than these species.

86. The activities of the Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research (ACMRR) working party on marine mammals were noted, and the hope was expressed that UNEP would take part in the symposium to be held in May 1975 to discuss the report of the working party.

^{a/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: E:73.II.A.14.

87. An observer, speaking on behalf of the Conference of non-governmental organizations held just before the Governing Council's session, drew attention to the lack of international machinery for ensuring compensation in cases of environmental damage resulting from land-based pollution and considered that UNEP should suggest the adoption of suitable conventions regulating the issue by the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. The Conference should be urged to establish an international institution to manage the marine environment as an ecological whole. UNEP co-operation with FAO, WHO and UNESCO to promote conservation measures in international and regional fisheries commissions, and further action to prevent the extinction of whales and other aquatic mammals, were urged.

III. Programme priorities for action by the United Nations Environment Programme

E. Oceans

- (i) To carry out objective assessments of problems affecting the marine environment and its living resources in specific bodies of water;
- (ii) To prepare a survey of the activities of international and regional organizations dealing with conservation and management of the living resources of the oceans;
- (iii) To assist nations in identifying and controlling land-based sources of pollution, particularly those which reach the oceans through rivers;
- (iv) To stimulate international and regional agreements for the control of all forms of pollution of the marine environment, and especially agreements relating to particular bodies of water;
- (v) To urge the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization to set a time-limit for the complete prohibition of international oil discharge in the seas, as well as to seek measures to minimize the probability of accidental discharges ;
- (vi) To develop a programme for the monitoring of marine pollution and its effects on marine ecosystems, paying particular attention to the special problems of specific bodies of water including some semi-enclosed seas, if the nations concerned so agree;
- (vii) To urge the International Whaling Commission to adopt a 10-year moratorium on commercial whaling;

DECISIONS ADOPTED
BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL/
GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM
AT ITS SPECIAL SESSIONS

Jeju Initiative

President's summary of the ministerial segment of the eighth special session of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

Jeju, Republic of Korea, 29–31 March 2004

I. Introduction

1. Ministers and other heads of delegations met from 29 to 31 March 2004, in Jeju, Republic of Korea, for the eighth special session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Declaring unanimous appreciation for the kindness and hospitality of the Government of the Republic of Korea, and under the leadership of the President (United Republic of Tanzania) of the Governing Council and ministers from Chile, Hungary, Lesotho, Singapore, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the ministers and other heads of delegations engaged in three sessions of constructive and interactive dialogue on the priority environmental dimensions – and the subsequent requirements for concrete and coordinated action – of the following water-related themes and associated targets stemming from the Millennium Declaration and the World Summit on Sustainable Development:

(a) *Ecosystem approaches, in particular in integrated water resource management*

Target: Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries;

(b) *Water and sanitation*

Target: Halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who do not have access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation; and

(c) *Water, health and poverty*

Target: Halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than \$1 a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

2. During their deliberations, the ministers and other heads of delegations raised a number of key environmental dimensions and concepts for addressing the functions and needs of the natural environment, particularly water, in local, national and international efforts to achieve the targets listed above. The ministers and other heads of delegations invited the Chair of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Executive Director of UNEP to present their views, in the form of the Jeju Initiative, to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its forthcoming twelfth session in April 2004 and other relevant international forums.

3. The present document, prepared by the Chair and moderators, is a summary of the rich and interactive discussion on the part of the ministers and other heads of delegations attending the meeting, rather than a consensus view on all points.

4. In a spirit of moving from rhetoric to action, the ministers and other heads of delegations also shared examples of partnerships and best practices relevant to each of the targets discussed, with a view to identifying practical measures and workable approaches based on actual experience. A list of two-page

summaries of those partnerships and practices set out under different categories, along with the names of the countries that provided the two-page summaries, is provided in the appendix to the present document. The ministers and other heads of delegations commended the efforts of the Governments and observed that the best practices presented, if replicated on a large scale in many countries, would make a substantive contribution to the realization of the targets listed above.

II. Key points of the ministerial discussion

5. The ministers and other heads of delegations stressed that integrated water resource management (IWRM) incorporating an ecosystem approach is a key building block for achieving the water, sanitation and human settlement targets to be discussed at the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, for promoting economic growth and achieving targets on health and poverty reduction.

6. Recognizing an inseparable and indisputable link between the protection and sustainable use of the natural environment, especially water resources, and the provision of environmentally sound sanitation services, the improvement of human settlements, public health and poverty reduction, the ministers and other heads of delegations underscored the importance of, first, protecting every drop of fresh water and putting it to optimal use to overcome the global water challenge in a sustainable manner; second, turning every good idea into a best practice for widespread adoption and adaptation throughout the global community; and, third, mobilizing adequate financial resources for water and sanitation. In this context, the ministers and other heads of delegations underlined the following issues:

The environmental dimensions identified in subsections 1 (b), 2 (b) and 3 (b) of section C below are fundamental to implementing the Millennium Declaration and the World Summit on Sustainable Development targets, commitments and goals on water, sanitation and human settlements, giving due consideration to the different situations in countries and regions;

There is a need for countries to assume, in cooperation with all relevant partners, full ownership of the achievement of the targets and to demonstrate a clear and firm political commitment thereto through, among other things, inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral cooperation, domestic budgetary allocations, legislative and policy frameworks and community support programmes;

The current absence of environmental considerations in many poverty reduction strategy papers and national sustainable development strategies is in urgent need of attention. There is a need to reflect in national priorities, poverty reduction strategy papers and national sustainable development and sector plans the necessary actions, and associated domestic budgets, to address the national priorities of IWRM, following ecosystem-based approaches, including the sustainable provision of drinking water and effective sanitation and the environmentally sound disposal of wastewater;

Water plays a vital role in the satisfaction of basic human needs, food security, poverty alleviation and the protection of ecosystems;

There is an urgent need to ensure that countries are in a position to produce IWRM and water efficiency plans by 2005 – with active support by the international community in the form of capacity-building initiatives, technology transfer and international and creative financing – as a key interim step to achieving the 2015 water, sanitation and poverty reduction targets. Concern was expressed that, from a global perspective, progress was not as advanced as it should be;

There is a need to engage and involve regional and local authorities, the private sector, civil society and local communities, especially women, indigenous people and youth, in addressing the environmental dimensions (see below) of the Millennium Declaration and the World Summit on Sustainable Development targets, commitments and goals on water, sanitation and human settlements;

The United Nations system, including UNEP, regional and other international organizations such as international financial institutions and regional development banks, in partnership with other relevant actors, have a valuable contribution to make to international, regional and national efforts to address the needs listed here;

Attention must be given to the continued vulnerability of small island developing States and the importance of the forthcoming ten-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

7. The ministers and other heads of delegations acknowledged that the ultimate responsibility for implementing best environmental practices lies with sovereign Governments. The environmental dimensions listed in the Jeju Initiative must be suitably adapted to the political, geographic, demographic, cultural and other requirements of each respective State and region, in line with its respective capacity.

A. Partnerships

8. Support and cooperation are needed to achieve the above, as are partnerships among major actors at the local, national, regional and global levels, particularly as they relate to the cross-cutting issues of capacity-building, technology transfer, financial assistance, education for sustainable development and sustainable patterns of production and consumption.

9. The ministers and other heads of delegations welcomed the partnerships presented during the discussions, some of which are reflected in the appendix to the present initiative. Partnerships, including those supported by official development assistance and other international finance, can leverage new and additional resources and build capacity.

10. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities was highlighted as an existing intergovernmental partnership for addressing the environmental dimensions of the IWRM, water and sanitation targets. The ministers and other heads of delegations emphasized the need to further implement existing activities, plans and strategies such as the Global Programme of Action.

11. The 2005 water resource alliance initiative proposed by UNEP, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Global Water Partnership was discussed. The initiative will be launched at the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York in April 2004.

B. Best practices

12. The ministers and other heads of delegations outlined many examples of best practices in the areas of water, sanitation, human settlements and poverty reduction. While these may need to be adapted to suit specific country or regional conditions, there are common approaches that, if applied widely, could make a considerable contribution to accelerating achievement of the Millennium Declaration and the World Summit on Sustainable Development targets in a sustainable manner. As noted above, a list of two-page summaries of partnerships and best practices discussed by the ministers and other heads of delegations, with short descriptions, is set out in the appendix to the present initiative. A compilation of the two-page summaries themselves may be found in document UNEP/GCSS.VIII/INF/17, which will be circulated to all members of the Council/Forum and other participants with a covering note from the Executive Director.

13. The ministers and other heads of delegations welcomed the UNEP/World Health Organization (WHO)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)/UN-Habitat/Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) "10 Keys for Municipal Wastewater Collection and Treatment", and recommended them as best practice principles suitable for wide application by local and national authorities, the private sector and relevant international organizations.

C. *Elements of the ministerial discussion*

14. The ministers and other heads of delegations repeatedly emphasized the interdependence of the three themes discussed over three sessions. The points raised below under the respective headings are not mutually exclusive; rather, their connectivity with and relevance to the other points is assumed.

1. **Ecosystem approach and IWRM**

• *Need for substantive progress*

15. The ministers and other heads of delegations emphasized the need for the international community and national Governments to make substantive progress towards implementing the IWRM target by 2005. They recognized that many countries have IWRM programmes in place or under development. They also recognized, however, that having fully fledged IWRM and water efficiency plans by 2005 might not be feasible for all countries, particularly for countries with limited capacity. They made clear that IWRM should be tailored to specific circumstances and that it was not appropriate to adopt a "one size fits all" approach. The implementation of IWRM plans is a long-term process. Progress in establishing or further developing the plans can be achieved by 2005 if the political will and necessary capacity are in place to deliver.

• *Key environmental approaches, actions and dimensions underpinning IWRM*

16. The ministers and other heads of delegations recognized the following approaches, actions and environmental dimensions underpinning IWRM:

(a) *Cross-sectoral management of water resources:* Demands on, and use of, water are at the centre of complex and often competing sectoral and social interests (between, for example, agriculture, industry, energy and domestic use, as well as between rural and urban areas). Cooperation is needed between all relevant sectors, especially between managers of water supply and managers of water quality;

(b) *National planning processes:* National sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategies (incorporating environmental sustainability) and other plans should give due priority to water, sanitation and human settlements, including in IWRM, to facilitate, among other things, effective resource allocation;

(c) *Transboundary approaches:* National actions can be strengthened and reinforced through regional cooperation among concerned countries, for example through shared river basin management and riparian agreements and, where relevant, international cooperation. Cooperation among riparian States in the management and sustainable use of shared rivers or groundwater aquifers can open the door to other forms of cross-border cooperation and regional stability;

(d) *Ecosystem-based approach:* In taking forward an integrated approach to water resource management, countries should factor the full range of up and downstream environmental impacts

into policy-making. This includes the protection of ecosystems such as soils, forests, wetlands, lowlands and coastal zones, as well as flood and drought management, the concept of environmental flows and the impacts of climate change, natural disasters and alien invasive species;

(e) *Linking the principles and practice of IWRM with integrated coastal zone management:* Under the ecosystem approach to IWRM, coastal zones need to be considered an integral part of freshwater management. The concept of integrated coastal zone and river basin management should be promoted and scientific management and institutional links between freshwater and coastal-marine management should be facilitated, taking into consideration existing experience at the national and regional levels;

(f) *Institutional structures and governance:* Coherent and sustainable legal, regulatory and institutional arrangements are vital. Key elements are the development of national water law, a river basin focus, decentralization to the most appropriate level and the setting of appropriate targets and guidelines;

(g) *Economic instruments:* Water is a vital resource with an economic value and needs to be managed efficiently. Greater use of economic instruments such as fair water service pricing policies and incentive measures that promote the equitable and efficient use of water can help manage demand and generate new revenue to expand water and sanitation services to the poor;

(h) *Monitoring, assessment and reporting:* Effective IWRM depends on accurate and scientifically credible assessments of river basins, including ecosystems, and water resources, and a holistic view of pressures and impacts. Scenario analysis can be a useful tool in the planning process. Environmental impact assessment before, during and after development activities is crucial. A transparent system for monitoring and reporting should be put in place;

(i) *Stakeholder involvement:* Balancing demands requires active and transparent consultation and participation – including at the local level – of relevant stakeholders, particularly women and indigenous peoples, as well as other civil society groups, business and local and regional authorities. Trade-offs are frequently necessary and systems should be put in place to resolve disputes. Education and awareness-raising activities should be undertaken;

(j) *Capacity-building and training:* It is important to strengthen the capacity for IWRM, including legal, financial, assessment and technical expertise, particularly in developing countries, least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing States;

(k) *Sustainable technologies:* Alternative and cost-effective technologies such as rainwater harvesting and sustainable desalination should be explored and promoted, and the transfer of appropriate technology increased.

2. Water and sanitation

(a) Need for an environmentally sound approach to the sanitation target

17. Building on the points above concerning IWRM, the ministers and other heads of delegation stressed the value of adopting an environmentally sound approach to the World Summit on Sustainable Development target on sanitation. Such an approach would incorporate the demands and effects of sanitation services on water catchments, downstream countries and communities and coastal environments. Specifically, an ecosystem approach to sanitation incorporates all components of water management, including protection of the water source, water supply, wastewater collection, treatment, reuse and reallocation to the natural environment. The ministers and other heads of delegations observed

that water supply and sanitation are what might be termed “development partners” and should not be addressed in isolation from each other.

(b) Key environmental approaches, actions and dimensions of the sanitation target

18. In the context of applying a holistic approach to sanitation, including wastewater collection, treatment, reuse and reallocation to the natural environment, the ministers and other heads of delegations encouraged national Governments and local communities, supported wherever possible by international organizations, including UNEP:

- (a) To give greater attention to sanitation, its environmental dimensions and its health, economic and environmental impacts in their quests to move towards sustainable development;
- (b) To include in the monitoring of the sanitation target parameters tailored to respective ecosystem characteristics that assess the environmental, health, economic and social impacts of the discharge and treatment of wastewater;
- (c) To adopt a flexible approach to providing sanitation services and engage local communities, especially women, in identifying and applying community, culture and ecosystem-specific solutions to sanitation;
- (d) To stimulate local demand for environmentally sustainable sanitation services through, among other methods, raising awareness of the economic, health and environmental impact and benefits of the provision of sustainable sanitation services;
- (e) To underpin the use of appropriate wastewater treatment and reuse technology with legislative and economic frameworks that promote the protection of ecosystem services;
- (f) To evaluate and apply alternative and community-appropriate technological and management solutions for the collection, treatment and reuse of wastewater, making a distinction between the approaches used in different ecosystems and those used in urban and rural settings;
- (g) To pay greater attention to ecosanitation and the potential of ecotechnology as a tested, realistic and environmentally sound wastewater management system;
- (h) To consider, as appropriate, water service pricing, taxes, levies, microfinance, market creation and alternative or supplementary forms of financing wastewater collection and treatment facilities, based on realistic assumptions regarding the community’s capacity to pay for the installation, maintenance and operation of wastewater collection, treatment and redistribution systems;
- (i) To develop appropriate and sustainable financial mechanisms, including, as appropriate, public-private partnerships and public-public partnerships, as well as the development of markets for the provision of sanitation services, with the appropriate involvement of financial institutions.

3. Water, poverty, health and human settlements

(a) Need to address water and sanitation issues in poverty reduction efforts

19. The ministers and other heads of delegations observed that a sustainable approach to poverty reduction, economic development and the improvement of public health necessitates the incorporation of environmental issues in poverty reduction strategy papers, national sustainable development strategies and other development programmes. They highlighted the cause-and-effect relationship between environment, good health and economic development.

(b) *Key environmental requirements of the poverty reduction target*

20. The ministers and other heads of delegations recognize that translating ecosystem approaches to water and sanitation management, including as it relates to health and poverty reduction, could include:

- (a) Integrating environmental considerations into the activities of all areas of Government, especially housing, health, education, agriculture, energy, finance and industry, with a view to achieving common goals;
- (b) Drawing attention to the fact that the returns on investments in the water and sanitation sectors are high and directly contribute to poverty reduction and stable economic development;
- (c) Conducting appropriate scientific research on and assessing the impact of economic development on the natural environment, the crucial links between health, environment and poverty reduction and the availability of clean water sources;
- (d) Encouraging and empowering local activities by decentralizing and delegating necessary planning, decision-making, funding, operation and accountability regarding water and sanitation management to local authorities, communities and users, including women;
- (e) Enhancing national stakeholder consultation in policy-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and investing in education and human development;
- (f) Incorporating community-led environmental targets, including the protection of ecosystems such as land, wetlands, forests, coastal zones and water supply sources, with realistic action plans and costing;
- (g) Encouraging efficient use of cleaner production technologies and techniques;
- (h) Granting a fairer and larger share of water management and economic development budgets to small-scale projects using practical and affordable technologies;
- (i) Promoting security of tenure, property and water rights for the poor, especially in urban slums;
- (j) Recognizing the fundamental and central role of women in water management, their right to land tenure, water and access to sanitation and the need for equitable participation by women in decision-making;
- (k) Promoting entrepreneurship at the local level, facilitating new and alternative employment options through the provision of environmental services and providing social services such as education and family planning information.

D. Role of UNEP and other United Nations agencies

21. UNEP, working in partnership with other United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and other actors, has an important role to play in helping to expedite the implementation of the IWRM, water and sanitation targets, including through support for capacity-building on legal, financial, technical and other issues, education, scientific monitoring and assessment, and technology transfer activities at the national and regional levels, particularly in developing countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing States. UNEP can assist countries in the integration of environmental sustainability issues, including water and sanitation, into national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategies and other plans. The ability of UNEP to convene, including in facilitating cross-border dialogue with the full consent of involved countries, and its active participation in partnerships, should be strengthened.

22. UNEP was invited to identify methods, in close collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies, the Global Water Partnership and other partners and, upon request, to integrate environmentally sustainable approaches to water and sanitation in national water policies, sector plans, IWRM plans, poverty reduction strategy papers and sustainable development strategies. In this context, the ministers and other heads of delegations stressed the importance of strengthened interaction between UNEP and international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank. The ministers and other heads of delegations also underlined the need for UNEP to develop an action plan for this work with time limits, benchmarks and targets, and to report back to the Governing Council on this work at its twenty-third session.

23. The ministers and other heads of delegations also invited UNEP to create a stronger link between water management and ecosystem stewardship by mapping ecosystems in different regions and identifying means for achieving better protection, in close consultation and concurrence with the countries involved.

24. The ministers and other heads of delegations called for the further development of guidelines on environmentally friendly sanitation based on best practices and taking into account differing circumstances, such as a rural, urban or megacities setting, and location, such as inland, by a river or by the sea. They invited UNEP, on request from developing countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing States, to collaborate with appropriate national agencies in this work.

25. The ministers and other heads of delegations attached importance to the role which UNEP should play in providing environmental input to the 2005 review of the implementation of internationally agreed development and sustainable development goals and targets.

26. The ministers and other heads of delegations urged UNEP to ensure that environmental dimensions are introduced into poverty reduction strategies and in this regard to work closely with international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank.

27. The ministers and other heads of delegations urged UNEP to continue incorporating water, sanitation and human settlements issues in its post-conflict environmental assessment activities such as those in the Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, underlining that peace and cooperation constitute the most important precondition for sustainable development.

28. UNEP was urged to participate actively in relevant partnerships, including for example the European Union Water for Life initiative.

SS.VIII/2. Small Island developing States

The Governing Council,

Noting the preparatory process for the international meeting for a ten-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling its decision 22/13 on the international meeting for the ten-year review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report on the outcome of the international meeting for the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
2. *Decides* to review the report at its twenty-third session in the context of the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme.

6th meeting
31 March 2004

SS.VIII/4. Waste management

The Governing Council.

Mindful that modes of production and consumption have various impacts on the environment,

Aware that human activities generate liquid, solid and gaseous wastes with a direct impact on water resources, human settlements and the environment in general,

Aware also that water and water-management-related issues are closely linked to the generation of wastes, both solid and liquid,

Mindful that improvement in water quality management depends on sound waste management through, among other measures, the treatment of wastewater and solid wastes,

1. *Decides* that the issues related to domestic, industrial and hazardous waste management, in particular regarding capacity-building and technology support, shall be discussed by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session;
2. *Decides* in that context to consider innovative ways of mobilizing financial resources from all appropriate sources to support the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in this area.

6th meeting
31 March 2004

SS.VII/6. Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

The Governing Council,

Conscious that the marine environment is being increasingly degraded by pollution from sewage, persistent organic pollutants, radioactive substances, heavy metals, oils, litter, the physical alteration and destruction of habitats, and the alteration of timing, volume and quality of freshwater inflows with resulting changes to nutrient and sediment budgets and salinity regimes,

Acknowledging that social, environmental and economic costs are escalating as a result of the harmful effects of land-based activities on human health and coastal and marine ecosystems, that certain types of damage are serious and may be irreversible, and that urgent, participatory and innovative action is required to save human lives, protect water and food resources, and maintain ecosystem integrity,

Concerned by the widespread poverty, particularly in coastal communities of developing countries, and the contribution that the conditions of poverty make to marine pollution, and transversely, how marine degradation generates poverty by depleting the very basics for social and economic development,

Acknowledging that implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities is primarily the task of national Governments, and that the respective regional seas programmes also play an important role in implementation and both should include the active involvement of all stakeholders,

Taking note of the progress made to implement the Global Programme of Action, and the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme, as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action, and other partners, to prepare the first Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action, from 26 to 30 November 2001,

Welcoming the valued contribution of the Government of Canada to the Global Programme of Action, in hosting the first Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action,

Noting that the World Summit on Sustainable Development is to be held in Johannesburg in August-September 2002 and is to conduct a review of progress in implementing Agenda 21,

Noting General Assembly resolution 51/189 of 16 December 1996 on institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action,

Recalling its decisions 19/14 A of 7 February 1997, 20/19 B of 5 February 1999, and 21/10 of 9 February 2001 concerning the implementation and review of the Global Programme of Action,

1. Endorses as a valuable contribution to the implementation of Agenda 21, the outcomes of the first Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;⁴
 2. Commends the Global Programme of Action as a practical and effective non-binding framework for harmonizing the activities of coastal and marine institutions and mechanisms at the local, national, regional and global levels; for producing efficiencies by bringing stakeholders together from different
-

sectors, both public and private, to address common objectives; and further integrating river basin management with marine and coastal area management;

3. Calls on international financial institutions and regional development banks and other international financial mechanisms, in particular the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility, consistent with their operational strategies and policies, to facilitate and expeditiously finance activities related to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at regional and national levels;

4. Calls on Governments, the private sector, and the international financial community to enhance the financing and implementation of innovative, appropriate and sustainable approaches to wastewater management by, inter alia, further integrating wastewater management with water supply objectives, promoting water re-use and demand management, and applying alternative approaches with regard to financing, partnerships, technology, institutional and managerial arrangements;

5. Endorses the 2002–2006 programme of work⁵ proposed by the Coordination Office, with a focus on assisting countries to develop enabling environments for multi-sector partnerships and innovative financial arrangements through regulatory, legislative, institutional and financial reforms, thus making the strategic transition from planning to actual control of pollution and coastal degradation;

6. Requests the Executive Director to submit the outcomes of the first Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action to the governing or organizing bodies of relevant organizations, programmes, and processes to actively participate in the realization of the objectives of the Global Programme of Action, particularly at the national, subregional and regional levels.

6th meeting
15 February 2002

Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the seventh session of the Commission on sustainable Development

The Governing Council

Recalling that, in accordance with the multi-year Programme of work for the Commission on sustainable Development for the period 1998-2002, oceans will be the spectral theme for the Commission's seventh session, in 1999, while the economic sector/major group for discussion at the session will be tourism.

Recalling also that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, calls on the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support to the Commission on Sustainable Development, inter alia, in the form of scientific, technical and policy information and analysis of and advice of global environmental issues, 10/

Requests the Executive Director to consult with Member States particularly developing countries, both individually and in regional and sub regional grouping, on environmental aspects of oceans management, including the problems of the sustainable development of small island developing states, and sustainable tourism, and , on the basis of these consultations, to prepare reports for the consideration of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials and the Governing Council at its twentieth session, with a view to submitting the reports as a contribution to the work of the Commission on sustainable Development at its seventh session.

7th Meeting

22 May 1998

SS.III/3 The state of the environment (1972-1992)

11. The state of the environment resulting from the situation between Iraq and Kuwait

Expressing further its deep concern over the environmental consequences resulting from the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and the resulting serious deterioration of the marine, coastal and terrestrial environments and the possible long-term effects of atmospheric pollution, as well as over the adverse socio-economic impacts of these environmental consequences on the States of the region and neighbouring countries,

Having taken note with appreciation of the effort of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, through his personal representative, in confirming the nature and extent of the environmental and socio-economic damage suffered in the region,

Having also taken note with appreciation of the effort of the United Nations inter-agency task force established by the United Nations Environment Programme, the Plan of Action that it developed, and the contributions by various donors to two trust funds established by the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme respectively to deal with the emergency situation in the region,

Recognizing the fact that dealing with this environmental catastrophe goes beyond the capabilities of the countries of the region, and hence the need for strengthened international cooperation to deal with the issue,

1. Brings to the attention of the Governments the urgent need for the rehabilitation of the environmental destruction in the region, with particular emphasis on marine life cycles (fisheries) and possible long-term deleterious effects on human health, as made evident by the findings of the United Nations inter-agency task force established by the United Nations Environment Programme to assess the environmental situation in that area, in accordance with the Consolidated Rehabilitation Programme prepared by the Governments of the region in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and all relevant United Nations agencies and organs as well as other international organizations;

2. Invites the international community, Governments and intergovernmental organizations - within and outside the United Nations system - to participate actively, technically and financially, in rehabilitation programmes aimed at the mitigation of the environmental deterioration of the region, and in the strengthening of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment to enhance its capability to coordinate and implement these programmes;

3. Requests the Executive Director to bring the present decision and the Consolidated Rehabilitation Programme to the attention of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development through its Preparatory Committee, and to cooperate fully with the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the implementation of the Rehabilitation Programme.

5th meeting
5 February 1992

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

SS.II/6 Need for effective global protection of ocean and coastal ecosystems

The Governing Council.

Aware that the living resources of the sea are under threat from pollution, land-based development and over-exploitation, and that there is substantial and growing evidence of increasing degradation in near-coastal waters, where marine life is most plentiful,

Recognizing that discharges of wastes into the sea from land (via pipelines, runoff, and atmospheric inputs) are among the most significant sources of marine pollution, as these discharges directly affect the coastal waters where human contact with the ocean and fisheries resources reach their highest levels,

Concerned that the deterioration in environmental quality arising from pollution of ocean and coastal areas has serious implications for sustainable development, especially for some developing countries,

Mindful that the World Commission on Environment and Development, in its report Our Common Future, expressed its conviction that sustainable development, if not survival itself, depends on significant advances in the management of the oceans, g/⁶

Cognizant that article 197 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea h/ provides that States shall co-operate on a global basis and, as appropriate, on a regional basis, directly or through competent international organizations, in formulating and elaborating international rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures consistent with the Convention, for the protection and preservation of the marine environment,

Fully aware of the significant progress that the United Nations Environment Programme has made and continues to make, especially through its regional seas programme, in developing appropriate measures for protecting ocean and coastal resources, as well as its special efforts to address land-based sources of marine pollution through the development of the Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment against Pollution from Land-based Sources, i/ sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme and adopted in 1985,

Recognizing that the second special session of the Governing Council presents a special opportunity to present matters of concern to participants in the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which will meet in Nairobi from 6 to 31 August 1990,

Further recognizing that control of pollutants entering coastal and marine areas requires effective national mechanisms to address increasing development and human populations in nearby land areas,

1. Appeals to Governments and international agencies and forums to strengthen and expedite measures at the global, regional and national levels that will protect the living resources of the sea from all sources of marine pollution and provide for sustainable development of those resources:

⁶ g/ UNEP/GC.14/13, annex, chap. 10, para. 15.

h/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

i/ See Environmental Law Guidelines and Principles No. 7 (United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, 1985).

2. Calls upon Governments and international agencies and forums to take special steps at the global, regional and national levels to address the serious and growing problem of land-based sources of marine pollution:

3. Urges the participants in the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to consider developing or strengthening institutional, legal and other measures at the regional level, including those that complement and support the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as at the global level, that will facilitate improved protection and sustainable development of ocean and coastal resources, including more effective co-ordination and exchange of standards, recommended practices, procedures, information, technology and expertise, and will more effectively address the serious growing problem of land-based sources of marine pollution.

--- E N D ---