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REPORT OF THE INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT ON ITS FOURTH SESSION

(Geneva, 14-16 June 1994)

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) held its fourth session at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 12 to 14 June 1994. The agenda for the session, as adopted by IACSD, is contained in annex I; the list of participants, in annex II; and the list of documents, in annex III.

### I. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY ACC

#### A. Review of the results of the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

2. IACSD analysed the results of the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (see E/1994/33) with a view to identifying the implications for the priorities and direction of the work of the United Nations system in the follow-up to Agenda 21 and drawing lessons for the work of IACSD in that regard. IACSD brings to the attention of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) the policy matters described below.

3. IACSD felt that the results of the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development were generally encouraging for its work but needed a more balanced approach (see para. 5 below). The Commission was an important high-level policy mechanism for promoting sustainable development at international and national levels and throughout various governmental and non-governmental constituencies. The second session of the Commission, which had been attended by a large number of ministers and high-level officials from Governments and international organizations as well as by a significant number of representatives of non-governmental organizations, had demonstrated that the Commission provided an effective mechanism for maintaining and enhancing the political momentum generated at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Furthermore, the Commission provided an important intergovernmental forum for fostering multilateral dialogue and consensus-building on sustainable development issues, particularly in those areas where no other international negotiating mechanism existed, such as consumption and production patterns.

4. At the same time, the Commission had identified, at its second session, a number of areas where its functioning could be improved. From the point of view of the work of IACSD, the need to improve the integration of sectoral and cross-sectoral discussions in the working groups as well as to identify the linkages between various sectors had been underscored.

5. The IACSD review of the results of the second session of the Commission also took into account a wider perspective concerning action to follow up UNCED agreements and the achievement of sustainable development. The review drew attention to a number of apparent imbalances that would need to be taken into account by the United Nations system, particularly as regards preparations for future sessions of the Commission. IACSD identified the need to ensure a more balanced approach that would facilitate the following:

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(a) The need to balance both the environmental and developmental aspects of sustainable development. In that context, IACSD suggested that the organizations of the United Nations system could assist in building up broader-based constituencies of support for the Commission within Governments and major groups. In particular, IACSD stressed the importance of the involvement of national development and financial policy makers in the work of the Commission;

(b) The need to expand the present emphasis on global and transnational issues to encompass more issues related to urgent regional and national aspects of sustainability;

(c) The need to balance the present emphasis on action at the international level by devoting greater attention to significant national needs and existing efforts being made at the national level;

(d) The need to establish closer linkages between new proposals concerning sectoral programmes and the means necessary to implement them, i.e., cross-sectoral issues such as finance and technology.

6. IACSD agreed that the contribution of agencies, particularly those which served as task managers for specific issues, was crucial to the identification of policy issues and options for action presented in the documentation for the Commission.

7. IACSD expressed its satisfaction with the functioning of the system of task managers; it reiterated that the task managers, in carrying out their functions, should involve all interested parts of the United Nations system as closely as possible. Task managers were also encouraged to give priority to their responsibilities in the promotion of joint programming and the development of common strategies.

8. IACSD expressed its concern at the high number of reports requested by the Commission and considered that the progress on follow-up action on issues addressed in 1994 should be presented in a consolidated report.

9. IACSD underlined that encouraging progress had been made in giving effect to the outcome of UNCED at the national level, particularly through the elaboration of national Agenda 21 action plans and sustainable development strategies and the establishment of national coordination structures to follow up UNCED. As regards the mobilization of international support for country efforts to implement UNCED outcome, the United Nations system should strive to meet the needs and demands identified by the countries themselves.

10. IACSD noted that the Commission, at its second session, had advanced the international discussion in such areas as consumption patterns, trade and environment, indicators for sustainable development, radioactive wastes, chemical safety, and health in the context of environment and development. In that sense, the Commission had helped to further progress in those areas beyond the relevant provisions of Agenda 21. 1/

11. IACSD recognized that decision-making processes related to sustainable development were undertaken in other intergovernmental bodies of the United

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Nations system besides the Commission and that in that context it was essential to consider ways in which concerned bodies could be kept fully cognizant of relevant developments in and decisions of other intergovernmental bodies. The broader objective in that regard would be not only to facilitate coordination and consistency in intergovernmental decision-making through information exchange but also to enhance the complementarity existing among intergovernmental bodies in addressing various facets of issues falling within the ambit of sustainable development. IACSD therefore felt that the secretariats of concerned bodies should give further consideration to methods for improving such interactions in a number of possible ways, such as:

(a) Providing for a regular information item to be placed on the agenda of relevant bodies under which information would be provided which would be of particular relevance to substantive issues under consideration;

(b) Exploring the possibility of holding, where appropriate, joint bureau meetings of intergovernmental bodies addressing sustainable development issues from different perspectives;

(c) Scheduling a specific discussion on that matter in the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council;

(d) Encouraging the participation of heads of agencies/high-level officials in meetings of all intergovernmental bodies, including the Commission on Sustainable Development.

12. Another matter that required attention was how to ensure an effective interaction between the work of the Commission and that of other ongoing intergovernmental processes, such as the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

13. IACSD recognized that discussions during the second session of the Commission had greatly benefited from a number of inter-sessional meetings organized by Governments. At the same time, it was emphasized that there was a need to ensure that the outcome of such meetings fitted into the broader discussions in the Commission in a balanced way.

#### B. Review of IACSD

14. At its first regular session of 1994, ACC had agreed to carry out, at its second regular session of 1994, a review of IACSD core membership, as well as to address the broader issues of additional reporting and meeting requirements and the resource needs of the organizations of the system (ACC/1994/10, para. 30, decision 3). ACC had also requested IACSD to prepare for its consideration of the item by reviewing its own functioning in the light of those issues and making appropriate recommendations.

15. Accordingly, IACSD decided to carry out a review of its overall functioning in three phases leading up to a full assessment of the United Nations system

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response to Agenda 21 for submission to ACC in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly in 1997. The scope, arrangements and the timetable for the completion of the review, as agreed to by IACSD, are contained in annex IV; it was agreed that they would be subject to review in the light of ACC decisions and other developments.

16. In phase I of the review, undertaken during its fourth session, IACSD considered the questions of its membership, its additional financial requirements and the streamlining of its reporting.

17. With respect to the issue of membership, IACSD noted that for all practical purposes it was already functioning on the basis of full participation by all interested organizations and that those arrangements had benefited its work.

18. While recognizing the need for opening up its membership to all interested organizations, IACSD underscored that the policy-level and action-oriented discussions and the collaborative spirit that had come to characterize its work must be maintained. Bearing those considerations in mind, IACSD recommended the following draft decision for adoption by ACC:

"ACC decides that henceforth membership of IACSD will be open to all interested organizations of the United Nations System."

19. With regard to additional financial requirements, IACSD recognized that the mobilization of additional resources required targeted efforts based on specific programmes and activities. It further agreed that the task managers, in collaboration with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, and with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) if necessary, should consider organizing round-table consultations under the umbrella of Agenda 21 for mobilizing resources for specific joint programmes and activities formulated in consultation with other cooperating organizations. Those consultations should provide for the participation of representatives of international financial institutions and mechanisms, relevant national authorities and the private sector.

20. For the purposes of reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development, IACSD agreed that the financial requirements of the United Nations system related to Agenda 21 should be provided in broad terms in specific areas, while presenting information on major shifts in priorities and the redeployment of resources that was taking place within the system in response to UNCED. IACSD agreed that the report should focus on strategic issues. The Department was requested to circulate guidelines to agencies.

21. As regards the streamlining of reporting, IACSD reviewed the experience gained during the preparations for the second session of the Commission. It agreed, as a first step, to submit one consolidated report of the Secretary-General covering global, regional and national actions as well as international cooperation relating to each of the issues on the agenda of the third session of the Commission. IACSD also agreed to submit a single report of the Secretary-General providing concise information on the follow-up actions to be taken in response to the requests addressed to the organizations of the United Nations

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system by the Commission at its second session (for specific arrangements for the preparation of reports for the third session of the Commission, see paras. 42-50 below).

22. IACSD agreed to recommend to ACC, at a subsequent stage, a broader streamlining of the reporting requirements relating to the Commission and other intergovernmental bodies, on the basis of its ongoing work on that matter.

C. Provisional agenda, dates and venue for the fifth session of IACSD

23. IACSD agreed to the following provisional agenda for its fifth session:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Follow-up to the outcome of meetings of:
  - (a) ACC;
  - (b) The Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;
  - (c) Other intergovernmental bodies: relevant decisions in the context of reporting requirements and implications for IACSD and the Commission on Sustainable Development.
3. Review of preparations for the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.
4. Review of progress in United Nations system coordination and preparation of joint initiatives to implement Agenda 21 (specific initiatives to be included as sub-items following consultations).
5. Support for Agenda 21 coordination and planning activities at the national level.
6. Review of IACSD: phase II.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report.

24. IACSD recommended that its fifth session be held for three days in New York during February 1995, as close as possible to the meeting of the inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The sixth session was proposed for June 1995, following the third session of the Commission; the exact dates would need to be determined through consultations in the light of the dates for the meeting of the ad hoc inter-sessional working group and the Commission.

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D. Dates and venue for the fifteenth session of the  
ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources

25. IACSD approved the proposed dates and venue for the fifteenth session of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources (21 to 23 September 1995, Washington, D.C.).

26. IACSD endorsed the designation of Mr. G. Le Moigne as the Chairman of the Subcommittee.

E. Terms of reference of the ACC Subcommittee on  
Water Resources

27. IACSD concurred in the proposed terms of reference of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources, as contained in annex V, and recommended their approval by ACC.

F. ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas

28. IACSD endorsed the designation of Mr. S. Garcia as Chairman of the Subcommittee for a term of office extending to 1996 in order to ensure continuity in the preparation for the Commission on Sustainable Development of items related to chapter 17 of Agenda 21.

II. WORK OF IACSD

A. Action required to follow up the second session of  
the Commission on Sustainable Development

29. In the light of the assessment of the results of the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (see paras. 2 to 13 above), IACSD agreed on the measures described below to implement the decisions and requests of the Commission addressed to the United Nations system.

30. As regards the follow-up on sectoral issues that had been considered by the Commission in 1994, the task managers informed IACSD of their plans to give effect to the relevant recommendations and requests contained in the Commission decisions. It was agreed that the task managers, in accordance with their functions related to organizing inter-agency work, would meet and report to the next meeting of the IACSD on actions taken and progress achieved. Furthermore, it was decided that the task managers would prepare brief two-page notes on work carried out that could be included in a consolidated report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session for information.

31. IACSD highlighted the following recommendations of the Commission, which called for action at the inter-agency level as follows:

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(a) Trade, environment and sustainable development: strengthen technical assistance in capacity-building (ACC/1994/33, para. 90);

(b) Transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building:

- (i) Carry out a survey on and assessment of the available sources as well as supporting systems of information and inventories, and their effective use, focusing on selected environmentally sound technologies (ACC/1994/33, para. 90 (a));
- (ii) Examine the concrete modalities and the usefulness of innovative technology transfer mechanisms, such as "one-stop shops", "environmentally sound technology rights banks" (ESTRBs) or "build-operate-transfer" (BOT) arrangements (ACC/1994/33, para. 90 (d));
- (iii) Provide assistance, in particular to developing countries, in applying conditions and new modalities for the involvement of small and medium-sized enterprises in long-term international technology partnership arrangements, including assistance in the preparation, execution and post-servicing of sustainable development projects at the local level (ACC/1994/33, para. 90 (h));
- (iv) Examine the feasibility of establishing a consultative group on environmental technology centres, keeping in mind the experience of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) (ACC/1994/33, para. 90 (j));

(c) Health: support developing countries and economies in transition in integrating health and environment issues in their development policies and strategies, in carrying out reforms in the health field and in the development of national environmental health plans as part of national sustainable development programmes; such plans should (i) address the cross-sectoral aspects of environmental health and identify action by other sectors for health protection and promotion, and (ii) emphasize the provision of environmental health services at the local level, along with the development of primary environmental care (ACC/1994/33, para. 108 (a));

(d) Human settlements:

- (i) Mobilize legal, economic and environmental expertise for the development of equitable and sustainable land use planning and management strategies for human settlements of all sizes (ACC/1994/33, para. 132 (b));
- (ii) Launch a demonstration initiative for environmentally friendly urban transport (ACC/1994/33, para. 132 (d));
- (iii) Consider the feasibility of preparing and implementing integrated environment upgrading demonstration projects for human settlements in three mega-cities: one each in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean (ACC/1994/33, para. 132 (e));

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(e) Freshwater:

- (i) Carry out a comprehensive assessment of freshwater resources, with the aim of identifying the availability of such resources, making projections of future needs, and identifying problems (ACC/1994/33, para. 148);
- (ii) Strengthen coordination within the United Nations system with a view to concentrating and consolidating the great amount of international action in the field of water resources, including the implementation of chapter 18 of Agenda 21, and to request the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources to prepare a report for submission to the Economic and Social Council, taking into account the recommendation of the Commission that the Council could consider this issue at its coordination segment in 1995 (ACC/1994/33, paras. 152 and 153);

(f) Toxic chemicals: Improve international coordination to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts and strengthen the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) (ACC/1994/33, para. 159).

Proposals for action by IACSD

32. IACSD agreed that the task managers concerned would undertake specific actions to implement the recommendations of the Commission listed above through joint initiatives.

33. IACSD noted the strong interest expressed by the Commission in seeking a legally binding status for the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure with regard to the export of banned or severely restricted chemicals; it welcomed the initiatives being taken by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in consultation with other international organizations, to further pursue the matter.

34. IACSD noted the collaborative activities under way between United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and UNEP in the area of trade, environment and sustainable development; it emphasized the need for continuing analytical work relating to the many complex and sensitive issues that could facilitate their intergovernmental consideration. IACSD also welcomed the establishment of the Working Group on Environment, Trade and Development in UNCTAD and noted that its terms of reference fully reflected the requirements of Agenda 21. IACSD called for collaborative action by UNCTAD, UNEP and UNDP to strengthen technical assistance in capacity-building. The task manager was requested to consult with other relevant organizations, such as FAO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), in developing work in that area.

35. IACSD agreed that the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, as a task manager, would develop and provide to all agencies a framework on how to address matters related to consumption and production patterns in both cross-sectoral and sectoral

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contexts. Such a framework would be used in the preparation of task managers' reports on sectoral issues. The work on production and consumption patterns should follow the full life-cycle approach and should include three major tools: economic instruments, direct regulations and social instruments. Work in that field should also concentrate on the specific areas identified by the Commission.

36. IACSD requested that the task managers, in preparing their reports on sectoral issues, address relevant aspects of matters related to financial needs, transfer of technology, cooperation and capacity-building. It was agreed that the Department would develop a matrix approach related to the use of financial and economic instruments, to be used in the reporting on sectoral issues.

37. IACSD highlighted the need to involve the secretariats responsible for the substantive servicing of conventions related to sustainable development and the Global Environmental Facility in the work of the task managers.

38. IACSD requested the task managers to schedule various inter-agency meetings and consultative processes in such a way that all interested organizations could take part in them. As regards inter-sessional meetings relevant to the work of the Commission in general, it was agreed to exchange information on such meetings and maintain an updated list.

39. It was agreed that the Department would elaborate a strategic framework with a view to enhancing the participation of major groups in the implementation of Agenda 21 and enhancing their cooperation with the United Nations system. Agencies were requested to provide the Department with any further information that might be available on how they involved major groups in programme implementation.

B. Preparations for the third session of the Commission  
on Sustainable Development and streamlining of  
reporting requirements

40. IACSD discussed the arrangements for the effective preparation of the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its ad hoc open-ended inter-sessional working groups, including modalities for the preparation of the reports and participation of the organizations of the United Nations system in the meetings.

1. Reporting

41. It was stressed that the reports submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development and its ad hoc groups should be analytical in nature; should address major policy and strategic issues; should identify gaps and new requirements; and should contain action-oriented proposals and recommendations that would prepare the ground for decisions to be taken by the Commission. Description of activities at the international and national levels should be limited to major and new initiatives and policy experiences from which others could benefit. Furthermore, the reports should allow the Commission to see whether progress had

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been achieved or not. Wherever practicable, 1992 bench-marks should be used to assess progress.

42. The task managers informed IACSD about the consultative processes launched to prepare documents for the next session of the Commission. The Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat informed IACSD of its plans to simplify the guidelines for national reporting.

(a) Reporting on sectoral issues on the agenda of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1995

43. It was agreed that the reports of the Secretary-General related to sectoral issues on the agenda of the Commission for 1995 would be prepared for the meeting of the Ad Hoc Inter-Sessional Working Group on Sectoral Issues (sectoral issues on the agenda of the next session of the Commission are: "Integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources" (chapter 10); "Combating deforestation" (chapter 11 and the "Forest Principles"); "Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought" (chapter 12); "Managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development" (chapter 13); "Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development" (chapter 14); and "Conservation of biological diversity" (chapter 15)).

44. Those reports, together with any other updated information from the Secretariat and the United Nations system, if needed, would also be made available for the session of the Commission itself, to assist it in the consideration of conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Group.

45. Bearing in mind the decisions taken by IACSD at its third session, the experience gained during preparations for the second session of the Commission and the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the following process was agreed upon for the preparation of documentation:

(a) By the end of July 1994 the Department would circulate to all countries new simplified guidelines for the presentation of their national information to the Commission. Upon receipt of replies, the Department would provide all task managers with updated information from national reporting sources and any other relevant information available. The Department would stay in touch with the Governments that had indicated that they would organize inter-sessional meetings and would keep the relevant task managers informed and involved;

(b) The task managers, in consultation with other relevant entities of the United Nations system and on the basis of information available to them and inputs from the Department, would prepare reports by mid-November 1994 following the format suggested in paragraph 47 below. Bearing in mind the different nature of issues to be covered, it was understood that that format and the length of its various sections should be treated with a degree of flexibility. In order to meet that deadline, task managers would circulate draft outlines of reports to all concerned organizations and to the Department by mid-July 1994,

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and would solicit their comments and inputs in order to finalize and circulate the first drafts by the end of September 1994;

(c) Given the limited amount of time available, the task managers and the responsible officer of the Department would, from an early stage, maintain frequent contacts and discuss and consult each other on annotated outlines and preliminary drafts. Reports prepared by the task managers would serve as the basis for the thematic reports of the Secretary-General to the Ad Hoc Group of the Commission. There would be no separate task managers' reports submitted to either the Commission or the Ad Hoc Group;

(d) More detailed separate reports on international activities involving inter-agency coordination should be made available to IACSD;

(e) Taking into account the interrelated nature of some of the programme areas within the Thematic Cluster to be considered in 1995, particularly in the areas of land, agriculture and rural development, it would be important to consider the feasibility of preparing integrated reports of the Secretary-General. For that purpose, it was agreed to establish an ad hoc working group of task managers under the chairmanship of the Director for Sustainable Development to meet in fall 1994 and discuss such matters prior to the finalization of the reports;

(f) It was stressed that special priority should be given to ensuring that the conclusions and proposals for action provided clear and coherent policy recommendations and options to facilitate decision-making by the Commission.

46. The suggested format for the Secretary-General's reports is as follows:

#### INTRODUCTION

Up to one page.

#### GENERAL OVERVIEW

Two pages; should include an overall assessment of the current situation in a given sector, progress achieved to date and problems encountered in the implementation of relevant provisions of Agenda 21.

#### REVIEW OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED, MAIN POLICY ISSUES AND EXPERIENCES IN THE PROGRAMME AREAS OF CHAPTER \_\_\_\_ OF AGENDA 21

May include, if appropriate, an assessment of progress in the implementation of relevant provisions of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

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A. Country experiences

Up to five pages; should not seek to reflect individual country experience unless as an illustration of significant and promising development.

1. Developed countries

2. Developing countries

Should include a subsection on the experiences of small island developing States, if appropriate.

3. Countries with economies in transition

B. Experiences of major groups and non-governmental organizations

Three pages.

C. Matters related to finance and technology

Up to four pages; should focus on progress achieved and problems encountered. If possible, the matrix approach advocated in Commission decisions on technology and finance should be pursued and matters related to capacity-building should be addressed throughout.

1. Finance

2. Technology

D. Recent developments and experiences in international cooperation

Three pages; should focus on major and new experiences and initiatives at the international level.

1. Intergovernmental processes

2. Organizations of the United Nations system

Should focus on new and joint activities.

3. Organizations outside the United Nations system

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## CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

Two to three pages; should contain policy recommendations and options and should suggest strategies for the future, thus providing the basis for Commission decisions.

(b) Reporting on the follow-up to sectoral issues on the agenda of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1994

47. It was agreed that the task managers, in cooperation with the Department and incorporating inputs from countries that had hosted inter-sessional meetings on sectoral issues in 1994 and had committed themselves to follow-up activities, would prepare by the end of January 1995 brief two-page analytical updates on progress and major developments in their respective areas, taking into account the relevant decisions of the Commission at its second session. Those papers would present the basis for a consolidated report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the Commission for information.

(c) Reporting on cross-sectoral issues on the agenda of the Commission for 1995

48. With the exception of the report on finance, to be submitted to the Commission's Ad Hoc Group on Finance, the reports on cross-sectoral issues would be submitted to the Commission itself (cross-sectoral issues on the next session of the Commission are: "Combating poverty" (chapter 3); "Demographic dynamics and sustainability" (chapter 5); "Environmentally sound management of biotechnology" (chapter 16); "Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building" (chapter 34); 2/ "Science for sustainable development" (chapter 35); "Integrating environment and development in decision-making" (chapter 8); and "Information for decision-making" (chapter 40)).

49. It was agreed that the Department, as task manager as well as the other task managers responsible for cross-sectoral issues would follow, as far as practicable, the same process and format of reporting followed for sectoral issues. The task managers were requested to finalize their reports by the end of January 1995.

2. Participation of the United Nations system in the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its ad hoc groups

50. IACSD agreed that the experience of the agencies that had participated in both formal discussions of specific agenda items and informal panel discussions at the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, particularly as regards task managers, had proved to be useful and should be maintained.

51. However, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat and the task managers should allow more time for the preparation of informal panels, which should include representatives of relevant entities outside the United Nations system; should be better advertised

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to Governments and non-governmental organizations; and should be timed in such a way as to become a truly effective mechanism for direct dialogue and an open exchange of views among agencies and other interested parties. Furthermore, informal panels on cross-sectoral issues could be considered next year. The Department and the task managers concerned would consult to determine in the course of preparations for the next session of the Commission whether it would be more practicable to organize panels on sectoral issues during the meeting of the Ad Hoc Group on Sectoral Issues or during the session of the Commission itself. The matter would be discussed by the Ad Hoc Working Group of Task Managers.

52. Furthermore, it was agreed to explore the feasibility of organizing briefings for delegations and other interested parties with a view to presenting the documentation in advance of the meeting of the Commission and/or its ad hoc groups.

### 3. Reporting on additional financial requirements and related preparations

53. For the purposes of reporting to the Commission, IACSD agreed that the financial requirements of the United Nations system related to Agenda 21 should be provided in broad terms in specific areas; at the same time, information on major shifts in priorities and the redeployment of resources that was taking place within the system in response to UNCED should be indicated. The report should contain estimates of additional requirements, with the focus on joint programmes and initiatives as well as strategic issues. It was agreed that the agencies would submit their inputs to the report by the end of November 1994.

54. It was stressed that in order to facilitate the mobilization of resources for Agenda 21, it would be essential to reach all relevant constituencies and relevant national authorities dealing with sectoral aspects of Agenda 21.

55. Using Agenda 21 as an overall umbrella, it was suggested that round-table mechanisms could prove to be the most promising way of attracting new and additional funding for joint programmes and activities.

56. It was agreed that the task managers, in collaboration with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat and with the support of UNDP if necessary, should consider organizing round-table consultations under the umbrella of Agenda 21 with a view to mobilizing resources for specific joint programmes and activities formulated in consultation with other cooperating organizations. Such consultations should provide for the participation of representatives of international financial institutions and mechanisms, relevant national authorities and the private sector.

57. It would be essential for the success of such consultations that relevant project proposals be thoroughly elaborated by the task managers together with all other agencies concerned. Furthermore, it was noted that such consultations would also provide a good opportunity to discuss in greater detail the financial

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requirements of the United Nations system in specific programme areas of Agenda 21.

C. Other matters

1. Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas on its first session

58. IACSD approved the dates and venue proposed for the second session of the Subcommittee (WMO, Geneva, third week of January 1995). With regard to the timing of the third session, IACSD recommended that it be held soon after the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development and IACSD in 1995.

59. IACSD concurred in the views expressed by the Subcommittee in paragraph 24 of its report (ACC/1994/16) urging WHO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNIDO and UNCTAD as well as the World Bank and the World Tourism Organization (WTO) to participate in its work.

60. IACSD recommended that in preparing the task manager's report under chapter 17 of Agenda 21, the Subcommittee take into account the format and process agreed to by IACSD at its current session. To that end, the relevant parts of the present report should be transmitted to the Chairman and the Secretary of the Subcommittee. Taking into account those observations, IACSD approved the report of the Subcommittee.

2. Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

61. IACSD noted that in paragraph 122 of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which had been adopted by the Global Conference, IACSD had been requested to make the necessary provisions to consider, on a regular basis, system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Conference outcomes. It held a preliminary discussion on the various possibilities for assigning task managers' responsibilities for the follow-up to the Global Conference. IACSD agreed, however, that the issue would need to be reconsidered in the light of the decisions taken on the outcome of the Global Conference by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

3. Briefing note on environmental statistics, indicators and accounting prepared by the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat

62. IACSD took note with appreciation of the work on environmental statistics, indicators and accounting being undertaken by the Statistical Division in cooperation with UNEP and UNDP; it urged that that work be used to facilitate the development of broader sustainable indicators through collaborative efforts by the relevant organizations of the system.

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Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

2/ In accordance with the decision of the Commission, all issues related to the financial aspects of transfer of environmentally sound technology will be considered by the Inter-Sessional Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Finance, while technology transfer issues related to specific sectoral issues, including the experience of individual countries, would be considered by the Inter-Sessional Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Sectoral Issues.

Annex I

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda and timetable.
2. Assessment of the results of the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and requirements for follow-up.
3. Preparations for the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development:
  - (a) Progress reports by the task managers concerned;
  - (b) United Nations system inputs to the inter-sessional working group meetings;
  - (c) Standard format for the reports of task managers;
  - (d) Format of the report on additional financial requirements and related preparations;
  - (e) Other preparations.
4. Review of the Inter-Agency Commission on Sustainable Development:
  - (a) Scope of the review;
  - (b) Arrangements for the review process and timetable;
  - (c) Membership;
  - (d) Relations with other bodies (ACC, CCPOQ, ACC subcommittees, High-level Advisory Board).
5. Streamlining of reporting requirements.
6. Other matters:
  - (a) Dates and venue for the fifteenth session of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources;
  - (b) Terms of reference of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources;
  - (c) Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas on its first session;
  - (d) Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

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(e) Briefing note prepared by the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat on environmental statistics, indicators and accounting;

(f) Dates, venue and provisional agenda for the fifth session of IACSD.

7. Adoption of the report.

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairman: N. DESAI (United Nations)

Secretary: S. KHAN (United Nations)

United Nations, its entities and programmes

Department for Policy Coordination and  
Sustainable Development

J. Waller-Hunter  
L. Hyttinen  
K. Ruffing  
M. Monaghan  
A. Vasilyev

Interim secretariat for the United Nations  
Framework Convention on Climate Change

S. Schak

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements  
(Habitat)

M. Hildebrand

Economic Commission for Africa  
Economic Commission for Europe  
Economic and Social Commission for  
Asia and the Pacific

G. de Bellis

United Nations Conference on Trade and  
Development

J. Cuddy

United Nations Environment Programme a/

J. Huismans  
A. Z. Amin  
R. Olembo  
D. Ponce-Nava

United Nations Development Programme a/

G. Edgren  
K. Jorgensen

United Nations Population Fund

A. Jorgensen-Dahl  
M. Nizamuddin

Office of the United Nations High  
Commissioner for Refugees

K. Watanabe  
S. Berglund

World Food Programme

B. G. Käss

Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organization a/

L. R. Kohler  
E. Messell

/...

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations <u>a/</u>	P. J. Mahler M. E. Chipeta
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization <u>a/</u>	G. Glaser
World Health Organization <u>a/</u>	W. Kreisel S. Litsios
World Bank <u>a/</u>	C. Rees
International Telecommunication Union	J. Ernberg
World Meteorological Organization <u>a/</u>	L. Michaud
International Maritime Organization	J. Wonham
World Intellectual Property Organization	V. Yossifov
International Fund for Agricultural Development	A. Kesseba
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	S. A. Hasnain
* * *	
International Atomic Energy Agency <u>a/</u>	M. S. Opelz
General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade	J. Chakarian

Notes

a/ Core member of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development.

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Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

ACC/IACSD/IV/1994/CRP.1	Annotated provisional agenda
ACC/IACSD/IV/1994/CRP.2	Timetable
ACC/IACSD/IV/1994/CRP.3	Assessment of the results of the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and requirements for follow-up (Background paper prepared by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat)
ACC/IACSD/IV/1994/CRP.4	Preparations for the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and streamlining of reporting requirements (Background paper prepared by the Department)
ACC/IACSD/IV/1994/CRP.5	Preparations for the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (Item 3.4)
ACC/IACSD/IV/1994/CRP.6	Review of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (Background paper prepared by the Department)
ACC/IACSD/IV/1994/CRP.7	Draft terms of reference of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources
ACC/IACSD/IV/1994/CRP.8	Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas on its first session
ACC/IACSD/IV/1994/CRP.9	Briefing note on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Barbados, 25 April to 6 May 1994
ACC/IACSD/IV/1994/CRP.10	Note prepared by the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat on environmental statistics, indicators and accounting

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Annex IV

REVIEW OF THE INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Scope of the review

1. The review should encompass the following issues:

(a) Assessment of the coordination arrangements worked out by IACSD for the follow-up to Agenda 21, including a clarification of the role and responsibilities of task managers; linking of financial requirements to task managers' reports and the identification of key priority areas in which joint activities can be undertaken, common strategies can be developed and resource mobilization can take place in the next four years;

(b) Streamlining of reporting requirements;

(c) Development of a proactive approach by IACSD, including the articulation of a common framework in relation to work under way in other international conferences and forums, including the World Summit for Social Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the World Conference on Human Rights and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

(d) Draft of working arrangements for IACSD meetings, including the focus of its discussion and the nature and preparation of its report;

(e) Consideration of whether the work of IACSD has responded to the task entrusted to it in its terms of reference;

(f) Assessment of the degree to which United Nations bodies and specialized agencies have been able to implement the outcome of UNCED.

Arrangements for the review process and time-frame

2. It is evident from the range and complexity of issues identified for the review that that important task cannot be accomplished in a single meeting of IACSD. The review will clearly require in-depth preparatory work and careful consideration of the issues involved.

3. In phase I of the review, at its fourth session, IACSD addressed the specific issues of membership, reporting and financing.

4. Phase II will begin after an in-depth preparation of the review, taking into account the outcome of the second regular session of ACC of 1994. During that phase, the more substantive issues relating to the functioning of IACSD identified in paragraph 1 above will be examined in detail. In order to prepare for the review, an in-depth study will be carried out. It should be possible to complete phase II during the sixth session of IACSD, to be held in 1995 so that IACSD can submit its recommendations to ACC at its second regular session of

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1995. Phase III of the review would then be undertaken in 1996, during which a full assessment of the United Nations system response to Agenda 21 could be made for submission to ACC at its second regular session of 1997, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly.

5. Accordingly, the timetable for the IACSD review is as follows:

<u>Phase I</u>		
<u>Issues</u>	<u>Time-frame</u>	<u>Recommendations to ACC</u>
1. Membership, streamlining of reporting and additional financing requirements	Fourth meeting of IACSD	Second regular session of 1994
2. Agreement on scope and arrangements for the review process		
<u>Phase II</u>		
1. Preparation of a study on the functioning of IACSD taking into account recommendations of the ACC Task Force on Environment and Development	July 1994-January 1995	
2. Review by IACSD of its functioning	March 1995 and June 1995	Second regular session of 1995
<u>Phase III</u>		
Comprehensive assessment of United Nations system follow-up of Agenda 21	January 1996-January 1997	First regular session of 1997

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Annex V

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ACC SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

A. Scope

1. The scope of coordination within the United Nations system in the field of water resources has been broadly defined by the Mar del Plata Action Plan adopted by the United Nations Water Conference in 1977, and by the relevant provisions of Agenda 21, in particular those of chapter 18. The main areas are:

- (a) Integrated water resources development and management;
- (b) Water resources assessment;
- (c) Protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems;
- (d) Drinking water supply and sanitation;
- (e) Water and sustainable urban development;
- (f) Water for sustainable food production and rural development;
- (g) Impacts of climate change on water resources;
- (h) Prevention and mitigation of water-related natural disasters.

B. Objectives

2. The objectives of cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system in the field of water resources, based on the recommendations of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and of Agenda 21, are to:

- (a) Promote effective coordination and cooperation among the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the formulation and implementation of their respective programmes;
- (b) Formulate concerted strategic approaches to integrated water resources development and management, including capacity-building, institutional issues, human resources development and the role of women in the management of water resources for sustainable development. Such approaches are to be applied at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, as appropriate;
- (c) Enhance effective information exchange among the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant organizations dealing with water resources;
- (d) Bring to the attention of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development and the relevant intergovernmental bodies issues concerning the development and management of water resources;

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- (e) Promote public awareness of the growing seriousness of water problems worldwide.

C. Terms of reference

3. Based on the recommendations contained in the Mar del Plata Action Plan and chapter 18 of Agenda 21, the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources shall:

- (a) Monitor and review progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and chapter 18 of Agenda 21;

- (b) Prepare proposals for submission to the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development and other relevant bodies to enhance the effectiveness of cooperation and coordination among the organizations of the United Nations system in the field of water resources;

- (c) Assist in the preparation of reports on issues related to water resources for submission to the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Committee on Natural Resources, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system active in the field;

- (d) Analyse issues confronting the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the recommendations of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, the water-related provisions of Agenda 21 and other relevant mandates from intergovernmental bodies with a view to formulating guidelines for concerted action;

- (e) Formulate common strategies and joint programmes and activities among the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the consideration of issues related to capacity-building, institutional and human resources development and the role of women in the management of water resources for sustainable development;

- (f) Provide a forum for the exchange of information on the work programmes of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of water resources;

- (g) Enhance the coordination of country-level activities by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system concerning the application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources;

- (h) Provide a mechanism for a dialogue with international, regional and bilateral organizations, as well as with non-governmental scientific and professional organizations active in the field of water resources;

- (i) Raise public awareness of the importance of water resources and their appropriate uses.

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4. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Subcommittee shall take into account the competence and mandates of the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and shall take advantage of existing collaborative and coordination arrangements among them in order to enhance the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of its work. Proposals and recommendations for implementation by participating organizations will be subject to their usual administrative and constitutional processes.

#### D. Composition and participation

5. The Subcommittee shall be composed of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. The Subcommittee may arrange special meetings with other organizations, including non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations that have a major interest in specific issues related to water resources. Such organizations may participate, on a selective basis, at meetings of task forces and working groups convened by the Subcommittee for the consideration of specific issues.

#### E. Programme of work and reporting arrangements

6. The Subcommittee shall prepare its programme of work under the guidance of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, taking into account the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its reporting requirements, as well as the work stemming from the Committee on Natural Resources and the reporting requirements of other intergovernmental bodies.

7. The Subcommittee may request that member organizations or task forces established for that purpose carry out time-limited assignments, as the need arises, with a view to developing concerted approaches, cooperative arrangements and joint programmes. The Inter-Agency Steering Committee for Water Supply and Sanitation will serve as one of the working groups of the Subcommittee. The secretariat of the Subcommittee (see para. 11 below) shall act as the focal point in that process.

8. The Subcommittee shall report to the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development.

#### F. Meetings

9. The Subcommittee shall hold its regular sessions once a year and may hold special sessions when required. Sessions shall normally be held at the headquarters of member organizations on a rotating basis.

G. Officers

10. In order to ensure continuity as well as rotation, the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Subcommittee shall be elected for a period of two years on a rotating basis.

H. Secretariat

11. The secretariat of the Subcommittee will be provided by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat. Member organizations, where possible and as needed, may make arrangements to secure funds for financing specific activities of the Subcommittee. In carrying out its task, the secretariat shall utilize the lead role of specific organizations of the United Nations system with respect to the various programme areas of chapter 18 of Agenda 21. The Secretary of the Subcommittee shall, inter alia, discharge on behalf of its members the duties assigned to him/her by the Subcommittee or devolving upon him/her in consequence of action taken by it.

Annex VI

TASK MANAGERS AND OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR POLICY  
COORDINATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS SECRETARIAT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEMATIC CLUSTERS  
TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT IN 1995

Critical elements of sustainability

Combating poverty

Task manager: United Nations Secretariat, Ken Ruffing

Relevant meeting: World Summit on Social Development, Copenhagen,  
6-12 March 1995

Demographic dynamics and sustainability

Task manager: United Nations Population Fund

Responsible United Nations officer: Jeannie Peterson

Relevant meeting: International Conference on Population and Development,  
Cairo, 5-13 September 1994

Changing consumption patterns

Task manager: United Nations Secretariat, Ken Ruffing

Relevant meeting: Norway, follow-up symposium on consumption patterns

Trade, environment and sustainable development

Task manager: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development a/

Responsible United Nations officer: Ken Ruffing

Relevant meeting:

Financial resources and mechanisms

Financial resources and mechanisms

Task manager: United Nations Secretariat, Jurgen Holst

Relevant meetings: to be coordinated by Malaysia (Japan)

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Education, science, transfer of environmentally sound  
technologies, cooperation and capacity-building

Environmentally sound management of biotechnology

Task manager: United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Responsible United Nations officer: Dirk Pilari

Relevant meeting: Meeting on guidelines for biotechnology safety (in UNEP-framework) sponsored by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Netherlands

Transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building

Task manager: United Nations Secretariat, Dirk Pilari

Relevant meetings: United States of America/Colombia meeting on transfer of technology related to toxic chemicals and land issues; and panel meetings of the Commission on Science and Technology

Science for sustainable development

Task manager: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Responsible United Nations officer: Dirk Pilari

Relevant meetings:

Decision-making structures

Integrating environment and development in decision-making

Task manager: United Nations Secretariat, Mary Pat Silveira and Ken Ruffing

Relevant meetings:

Information for decision-making

Task manager: United Nations Secretariat, Mary Pat Silveira

Relevant meetings:

Roles of major groups

Task manager: United Nations Secretariat, Zehra Aydin

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Land, desertification, forests and biodiversity

Integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources

Task manager: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Responsible United Nations officer: Pierre Najlis

Relevant meetings: France, workshop on rural areas; United States of America/Colombia, technology cooperation related to land issues; and Israel, seminar on integrated land and water management for water scarcity

Combating deforestation/forest principles

Task manager: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Responsible United Nations officer: Shem Arungu Olende

Relevant meetings:

June 1994, Geneva, Helsinki Process, Criteria and indicators of sustainable forestry

June 1994, Geneva, Montreal Process, Criteria and indicators of sustainable forestry

July 1994, Delhi, Montreal Process, Criteria and indicators of sustainable forestry

July 1994, Delhi, Indonesia/United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

September 1994, Lisbon, Helsinki Process, Criteria and indicators of sustainable forestry

October 1994, Canada, Montreal Process, Criteria and indicators of sustainable forestry

October 1994, Canada, IWGGF Malaysia-Canada

December 1994, Vienna, Helsinki Process, Criteria and indicators of sustainable forestry

December 1994, Indonesia, CIFOR-Keystone International Dialogue on Sustainable Forest Management

March 1995, Rome (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), Ad hoc ministerial meeting

March 1995, Geneva, Helsinki Process, Criteria and indicators of sustainable forestry

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Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought

Task manager: United Nations Environment Programme

Responsible United Nations officer: Pierre Najlis

Relevant meetings: Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, fifth session, Paris, 6-17 June 1994

Managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development

Task manager: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Responsible United Nations officer: Shem Arungu Olende

Relevant meetings:

Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development

Task manager: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Responsible United Nations officer: Pierre Najlis

Relevant meetings: France, workshop on energy in rural areas and Netherlands (tentative), Den Bosch II (sustainable agriculture)

Conservation of biological diversity

Task manager: United Nations Environment Programme

Responsible United Nations officer: Shem Arungu Olende

Relevant meetings: second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Convention on Biological Diversity, Nairobi, June 1994; Australia/Jamaica/United States of America, protection and sustainable use of coral ecosystems

Notes

a/ Bearing in mind the joint UNCTAD/UNEP Work Programme on Trade and Environment.

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