

**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

**REPORT OF THE
GOVERNING COUNCIL
on the work of its twelfth session**

16-29 May 1984

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-NINTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 25 (A/39/25)



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New York, 1984

NOTE

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

[21 September 1984]

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL ON ITS TWELFTH SESSION*

(16-29 May 1984)

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* The full report on the work of the session, containing, inter alia, chapters on the discussions in plenary meetings and in the sessional Committee of the Whole, has been distributed to Governments as document UNEP/GC.12/19 and Corr.1.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The twelfth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 16 to 29 May 1984. The Council adopted the present report at the 16th meeting of the session, on 29 May 1984.

CHAPTER I

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

2. The twelfth session was opened by Mr. M. Holdgate (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), President of the Council at its eleventh session.

B. Attendance

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

Algeria	Malaysia
Argentina	Mexico
Australia	Morocco
Austria	Nepal
Belgium	Nigeria
Botswana	Norway
Brazil	Oman
Burundi	Papua New Guinea
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	Peru
Cameroon	Philippines
Canada	Poland
Chile	Saudi Arabia
China	Senegal
Colombia	Spain
Finland	Sudan
France	Thailand
Germany, Federal Republic of	Uganda
Greece	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
Guinea	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Hungary	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
India	United Republic of Tanzania
Indonesia	United States of America
Italy	Venezuela
Ivory Coast	Yugoslavia
Jamaica	Zaire
Japan	
Kuwait	
Lesotho	

1/ The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 84th plenary meeting of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, held on 5 December 1980, the 64th plenary meeting of the thirty-sixth session, held on 19 November 1981, the 70th plenary meeting of the thirty-seventh session, held on 17 November 1982, and the 98th plenary meeting of the thirty-eighth session, held on 15 December 1983 (decisions 35/313, 36/314, 37/312 and 38/316).

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

Bangladesh	Kenya
Benin	Liberia
Congo	Malawi
Costa Rica	Mali
Cyprus	Netherlands
Czechoslovakia	Pakistan
Denmark	Portugal
Egypt	Republic of Korea
Ethiopia	Seychelles
Gabon	Sri Lanka
Gambia	Swaziland
Ghana	Sweden
Holy See	Switzerland
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Syrian Arab Republic
Iraq	Tunisia
Ireland	Turkey
Israel	Zimbabwe
Jordan	

5. The African National Congress (ANC), the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) were represented as observers.

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

Office for the Law of the Sea
Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation
United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNCHS)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO)

The World Food Programme (WFP) was also represented.

7. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Bank
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

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

8. The following other intergovernmental organizations were represented:

African Development Bank (ADB)
Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)
Commonwealth Secretariat
Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA)
European Economic Community (EEC)
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
Kagera River Basin Organization (KBO)
League of Arab States (LAS)
Organization of African Unity (OAU)
Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

9. In addition, 44 non-governmental organizations were represented by observers.

C. Election of officers

10. At the opening meeting of the session, on 16 May 1984, the Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

<u>President:</u>	Mr. A. Al Agib (Sudan)
<u>Vice-Presidents:</u>	Mr. A. Al-Gain (Saudi Arabia) Mr. J. A. de Medicis (Brazil) Mr. G. Woschnagg (Austria)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. J. Janczak (Poland)

D. Credentials

11. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Bureau examined the credentials of the delegations attending the twelfth session. The Bureau found the credentials in order and so reported to the Council, which approved the Bureau's report at the 14th meeting of the session, on 28 May.

12. No statements were made on this item in plenary.

E. Agenda

13. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council adopted the following provisional agenda for the session, as approved at its eleventh session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Executive Director's annual and introductory reports.
5. Co-ordination questions, including the review of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.
6. State-of-the-environment report, 1984.
7. Programme matters:
 - (a) Performance between two sessions of the Council;
 - (b) Matters requiring reporting to or guidance by the Governing Council.
8. Review of the implementation of the Fund programme in 1983 and of the financial report and accounts (unaudited) for the biennium 1982-1983 ended 31 December 1983.
9. Comprehensive assessment of the status of desertification and of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.
10. Provisional agenda, date and place of the thirteenth session.
11. Other business.
12. Adoption of the report.
13. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of the work of the session

14. At the opening meeting of the session, the Governing Council considered the organization of the work of the session in the light of the suggestions made by the secretariat in the annotations to the provisional agenda and the timetable of meetings suggested by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.12/1/Add.1 and Corr.1).
15. At the same meeting, the Council decided to establish a sessional Committee of the Whole and to allocate to it agenda items 7 and 8, as well as parts of items 5 and 6. It was agreed that the Committee would be chaired by Mr. A. Al-Gain (Saudi Arabia) for its discussion of agenda item 8, and by Mr. G. Woschnagg (Austria) for its discussion of the remaining items.

16. The Council further decided to establish an informal open-ended drafting group under the chairmanship of Mr. J. A. de Medicis (Brazil), with a core membership of two representatives from each regional group, to ensure the initiation of draft decisions pertaining to the items considered in plenary and the co-ordination of draft decisions emanating from the Committee of the Whole before their submission to the relevant body for formal consideration.

G. Work of the Committee

17. The Committee of the Whole held 13 meetings from 16 to 25 May. At its 1st meeting it elected Mr. M. Kosovac (Yugoslavia) as Rapporteur.

CHAPTER II

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

A. Date and place of the thirteenth session of the Governing Council

18. At the 15th plenary meeting, on 28 May 1984, the Governing Council decided, bearing in mind its decision 11/2 of 23 May 1983 on the periodicity and duration of Council sessions, that its thirteenth session would be held at Nairobi from 13 to 22 May 1985.

B. Action with respect to resolutions of the General Assembly

19. By section I, paragraph 2, of its decision 12/1 of 29 May 1984, the Governing Council noted the resolutions of the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, 2/ and the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1983, 3/ which called specifically for action by the United Nations Environment Programme, and the follow-up and implementation of certain of those resolutions envisaged by the Executive Director. 4/

C. Environmental perspective of the year 2000 and beyond

20. By section II, paragraph 2, of decision 12/1, the Governing Council noted the progress made in the establishment of the Special Commission in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/161 of 19 December 1983, and by paragraph 3 of the same section of decision 12/1, decided upon the membership of the open-ended Intergovernmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee.

21. The Governing Council further decided, by paragraph 7 of the same section of the decision, that the Preparatory Committee should hold its second session in conjunction with the thirteenth session of the Governing Council in 1985.

22. The recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee at its first session, held on 28 and 29 May 1984, are incorporated in section II of decision 12/1.

2/ Resolutions 38/78, 38/80 and 38/85, all of 15 December 1983; 38/149, 38/161, 38/162, 38/163, 38/164 and 38/165, all of 19 December 1983; and 38/228 A of 20 December 1984.

3/ Resolution 1983/68 of 29 July 1983.

4/ UNEP/GC.12/3, sect. V, and Corr.1.

D. Environmental considerations in the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade

23. By section II of its decision 12/2 of 28 May 1984, the Governing Council noted the review of the implementation of the environmental aspects of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade in the report prepared under the aegis of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination 5/ and reiterated the importance it attached to environmental considerations for the successful implementation of the Strategy. It invited the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade to take fully into account the need to stress those considerations, particularly in any adjustment of the policy measures for the remaining period of the Decade, and authorized the Executive Director to transmit to the Committee on behalf of the Council the report prepared under aegis of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination together with the comments of the Council thereon reflected in the proceedings of the twelfth session (UNEP/GC.12/19, chap. IV, paras. 11-15).

E. State-of-the-environment reports

24. By paragraph 1 of its decision 12/3 A of 28 May 1984, the Governing Council noted the Executive Director's intention to produce a final version of the state-of-the-environment report for 1984 taking into consideration the views expressed by Governments prior to and during the debate on the report at the Council's twelfth session, and to consult with Governments through the permanent representatives in Nairobi to the United Nations Environment Programme before issuing the final version. By paragraph 5 of the same decision, the Council requested the Executive Director to forward chapters I to III of the final version of the report to the General Assembly, its Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the Fourth General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Conference on Population, the Intergovernmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee on the Environmental Perspective and the Special Commission on the Environmental Perspective.

F. United Nations accommodation at Nairobi

25. By section I of its decision 12/9 of 28 May 1984, the Governing Council welcomed the announcement by the President of Kenya, His Excellency Mr. Daniel arap Moi, granting the United Nations an additional 40 acres of land for the United Nations accommodation at Nairobi and recommended to the General Assembly the acceptance, with appreciation, of that generous offer.

G. Desertification

26. By paragraph 4 of its decision 12/10 of 28 May 1984, the Governing Council reconfirmed the validity of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and the

5/ UNEP/GC.12/8/Add.1 and Corr.1.

general appropriateness of the institutional arrangements 6/ established by the General Assembly for the follow-up of its implementation.

27. By paragraph 6 of the same decision, the Governing Council expressed its satisfaction at the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in establishing the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative on the African Social and Economic Crisis, a crisis caused among other things by prolonged drought.

28. The Governing Council, by paragraph 7 of the decision, appealed to all Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to give due consideration to strengthening their financial and technical support to the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region, and by paragraph 10 decided, in response to General Assembly resolution 38/164 of 19 December 1983, to include Ghana and Togo among the countries eligible to receive assistance through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

29. In paragraph 17 of its decision, the Council reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations Environment Programme in catalysing, co-ordinating and assessing the implementation of the Plan of Action at the international level.

30. By paragraph 18 of the decision, the Council called upon all countries, in particular the developed countries and those in a position to do so, to increase their assistance to countries suffering from desertification, including the financing of subregional and regional programmes, and to contribute to the Special Account created under General Assembly resolution 34/172 of 19 December 1977. It also, by paragraph 19, welcomed Assembly resolution 38/163 of 19 December 1983 and fully supported the Executive Director's intention to request, on behalf of the Secretary-General, all Member States that had not already done so to provide as soon as possible their comments to the Secretary-General in order to allow the General Assembly to consider taking a decision at its fortieth session on measures designed to obtain additional and predictable financing.

31. By paragraph 24 of the decision, the Governing Council invited the General Assembly to expand the role of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control to include explicitly responsibility for advising the Executive Director on:

(a) The progress and effectiveness of activities implemented under the Plan of Action, identifying constraints and possible solutions to problems, taking account of relevant evaluations and case-studies;

(b) Programme priorities of UNEP;

(c) Measures required to improve implementation of the Plan of Action on a regional and world-wide basis.

32. By paragraph 26 of the same decision, the Council authorized the Executive Director, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly

6/ Resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977 as amended in respect of the functions of the Environment Co-ordination Board by resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977.

(resolutions 32/172 of 19 December 1977, 35/73 of 5 December 1980 and 37/218 of 20 December 1982), to submit to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session through the Economic and Social Council, on behalf of the Governing Council, a progress report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, based on the relevant parts of his annual report and the comments of the Governing Council thereon. 7/

33. By paragraph 27 of the same decision, the Council also authorized the Executive Director to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session through the Economic and Social Council, on behalf of the Governing Council, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly (resolutions 33/88 of 15 December 1978, 34/187 of 18 December 1979, 35/72 of 5 December 1980, 36/190 of 17 December 1981, 37/216 of 20 December 1982 and 38/164 of 19 December 1983), a progress report on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, based on the relevant parts of his annual report and the comments of the Governing Council thereon. 8/

34. Relevant comments made by delegations during the debate in plenary are reflected in the proceedings of the Governing Council at its twelfth session. 9/

H. International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

35. By decision 12/14 of 28 May 1984, section V, paragraph 1, the Governing Council authorized the Executive Director to transmit his report on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, 10/ together with the updated Register of International Conventions and Protocols in the Field of the Environment, 11/ to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session in accordance with Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975.

7/ A/39/433, annex I.

8/ Ibid., annex II.

9/ UNEP/GC.12/19 and Corr.1.

10/ A/39/432.

11/ UNEP/GC/INFORMATION/11.

CHAPTER III

ADOPTION OF DECISIONS

Programme policy and implementation (decision 12/1)

36. At the 16th meeting of the session, on 29 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the President (UNEP/GC.12/L.19 and Corr.1).

37. In response to a request for clarification, the Executive Director said that it was his understanding that the consultative meeting of the Intergovernmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee on the Environmental Perspective referred to in paragraph 6 of the decision as adopted would be an informal meeting of the Committee, with the Committee members represented by permanent representatives in Nairobi - although any member that so wished could of course send a representative from his home country. The meeting would be open to all permanent representatives to UNEP by virtue of the open-ended nature of the Committee. It was also his understanding that the meeting would have no financial implications for UNEP, since no translation or interpretation would be provided, following the practice adopted for the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi. The Executive Director's understanding was confirmed by the Chairman of the Committee.

38. The representative of Mexico placed on record his understanding that the consultative meeting would be convened by the Chairman of the Committee, and not by the Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi.

39. The representative of the United States of America said that his Government had been among the first to express an interest in membership of the Intergovernmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee. Although he had deferred to other members of the Western European and Others Group in the allocation of seats on the Committee, his delegation intended to take full advantage of the open-ended nature of the Committee and to play a careful and constructive role in the development of the Environmental Perspective.

40. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Co-ordination (decision 12/2)

41. At the 14th meeting of the session, on 28 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the President (UNEP/GC.12/L.20), to which was added a text emanating from the Committee of the Whole on environmental considerations in the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (UNEP/GC.12/L.8/Add.5, p.22).

42. In the Committee, the text on the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy had been suggested by the Chairman. The representative of the Ukrainian SSR proposed a new paragraph to follow paragraph 1, which was forwarded to the plenary session without the full endorsement of the Committee.

43. In plenary, the proposed additional paragraph was deleted from the draft decision, which was then adopted in its entirety by consensus.

State-of-the-environment reports (decision 12/3)

44. At the 14th meeting of the session, on 28 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the President (UNEP/GC.12/L.21).

45. In connection with decision 12/3 A, the Executive Director said that he understood paragraph 6 to mean that consultations would be held with individual permanent representatives to UNEP, and not with the Group of Permanent Representatives. In those consultations an effort would be made to facilitate specific agreements and elaborate actions for substantial environmental undertakings, and where consensus was reached he would proceed to the implementation stage.

46. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Extension and strengthening of the clearing-house mechanism (decision 12/4)

47. At the 14th meeting of the session, on 28 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the President (UNEP/GC.12/L.14).

48. In response to a query, the Executive Director placed on record that the Clearing-house Unit would be established within available resources.

49. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Population and the environment (decision 12/5)

50. At the 14th meeting of the session, on 28 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the President (UNEP/GC.12/L.22).

51. The Executive Director expressed appreciation for the importance the Council attached to the interrelationships between population, resources, development and the environment, but placed on record that the attention given to such interrelationships in the past had not been limited, contrary to the assertion in paragraph 2 of the draft decision. The Council had itself established two high-level groups to study the question, and a report had been submitted to the General Assembly. The creation of a special fund had been suggested, and following its creation by the Secretary-General all United Nations organizations studying interrelationships were entitled to draw on it to finance their future work.

52. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Impacts of apartheid on the environment (decision 12/6)

53. At the 15th meeting of the session, on 28 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Group of 77 (UNEP/GC.12/L.10/Rev.1). The draft decision was introduced on behalf of the Group by the representative of Mexico, who said that, since it was the fruit of an exceptional effort to achieve consensus, and since it differed only in minor details from the decision on the same subject adopted by the Council at its eleventh session, he hoped it could be adopted without objection. The draft decision was then adopted by consensus.

54. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, speaking also on behalf of the representatives of Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States of America, said that if the draft decision had been put to the vote, those representatives would have been unable to support the second preambular paragraph, or, as far as most of them were concerned, paragraph 6. She expressed concern that in certain respects the decision dealt with issues which properly fell within the purview of political bodies rather than UNEP. However, those representatives had been prepared to join in the consensus on the decision, more especially as they all shared an abhorrence for apartheid and the repressive measures that were used to enforce it.

55. The representative of France said that, if a vote had been taken on the draft decision, she would have abstained. Although the French Government was firmly opposed to apartheid in all its manifestations, it felt that essentially political matters were better dealt with in other United Nations forums. Continuation of the tendency to raise such matters in technical bodies could cause lasting harm to their smooth operation. The representative of Spain associated himself with those observations.

56. The representative of SWAPO said that it was well known that southern Africa was facing the problem of colonialism as well as that of apartheid, and expressed the hope that in future the Governing Council would find a way to incorporate in its deliberations the impact of colonialism on the environment.

57. The representative of Finland, speaking also on behalf of the representative of Norway, said that while he fully supported the decision just adopted, he felt that questions of a political nature should be dealt with in political bodies.

58. The representative of China expressed profound sympathy with the people of South Africa, where the racist régime constituted a serious obstacle to the realization of their right to self-determination. The policy of apartheid was a crime against humanity and a threat to world peace and security and the world environment. If peace was to be maintained in that region, the South African régime must be subjected to strict sanctions, and the people of Namibia must be helped to secure their independence.

59. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics said that, had a vote been taken on the draft decision, she would have voted in favour of the text in its entirety.

Israel's decision to build a canal linking the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea (decision 12/7)

60. At the 15th meeting of the session, on 28 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Group of 77 (UNEP/GC.12/L.9). It was introduced on behalf of the Group by the representative of Mexico, who said that the sponsors had shown flexibility and moderation in the drafting of the text, in order to deal appropriately with the issue without politicizing the work of the Council. The draft decision was practically identical to decision 11/4, and he hoped it would be adopted without the need for a vote.

61. The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization said that the world had seen Israelis usurping Palestinian land for their own use. Now Israel was building a canal, the main section of which was located in the occupied Gaza Strip, as a deliberate obstacle to the unity of the Palestinian people.

62. The representative of Israel said that his Government had agreed to a request that experts should visit the site and study the ramifications of the project, which would have no harmful effects whatsoever in the Jordan valley, the river Jordan or the Gaza Strip. Moreover, what was involved was not a canal but a predominantly underground water conduit.

63. The representative of the United States of America called for a vote on the draft decision. The representative of Morocco called for a vote by roll-call. The President then put the draft decision to the vote. It was adopted by 47 votes to 1, with no abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

64. The representative of the United States of America expressed regret that a vote had proved necessary on the draft decision. However, the decision contained political elements which fell outside the competence of the Governing Council, as well as prejudging the impact of the proposed project. If the decision had focused on environmental issues alone, avoided prejudging a project which was still at the feasibility stage, and noted that the issue could be resolved only through consultations between the Governments involved, he would have been able to support it.

Smoking in meeting rooms (decision 12/8)

65. At the 15th meeting of the session, on 28 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.12/L.24). The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

United Nations accommodation at Nairobi (decision 12/9)

66. At the 15th meeting of the session, on 28 May, the Council had before it two draft decisions on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.12/L.23 and L.26), which were subsequently merged. The draft decisions were adopted by consensus.

Desertification (decision 12/10)

67. At the 14th meeting of the session, on 28 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.12/L.13).

68. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

69. In connection with paragraph 21 of the decision as adopted, the Executive Director pointed out that the actions requested of him would be carried out within available resources.

Environmental assessment (decision 12/11)

Environmental management (decision 12/12)

Training and promotion in the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the World Soils Policy (decision 12/13)

Environmental law (decision 12/14)

Reform of the Information Service (decision 12/15)

Supporting measures (decision 12/16)

Regional activities (decision 12/17)

Financial framework for the Fund programme (decision 12/18)

Administrative and financial matters (decision 12/19)

70. Decisions 12/11 to 12/19 were adopted on the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole in its report (UNEP/GC.12/L.8/Add.5). Except as indicated below, the decisions were approved in the Committee and adopted by the Council, at the 14th plenary meeting on 28 May 1983, by consensus and without comment.

Environmental assessment (decision 12/11)

71. The Committee approved a draft decision suggested by the Chairman, as amended by the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Kenya.

72. One representative said that the evaluation referred to in paragraph 2 (c) of the decision should be limited to existing published material from other United Nations bodies and to chemical substances included in the list, so that the decision might be implemented within available resources.

73. A representative of the secretariat said that on that understanding the financial implications would be between \$50,000 and \$60,000, which would be made available by adjusting existing allocations.

Environmental management (decision 12/12)

74. The Committee approved a draft decision suggested by the Chairman, as amended in respect of parts I and II by the Western European and Others Group.

75. The Assistant Executive Director said that the financial implications were already covered in the planned work programme.

76. In connection with section I of the decision, the representative of Japan said that marine mammals should be properly conserved and properly utilized on the basis of scientific knowledge. In planning such utilization, which included fishing activities, the social and economic circumstances of the people concerned should be

taken fully into account. He pointed out that the report on the draft global plan of action and financial plan on marine mammals (UNEP/GC.12/15) was one of several documents which had failed to reach his delegation in time to permit careful study before the subject was discussed, and he strongly requested the Executive Director to ensure that in future the six-week rule was observed in respect of all Council documents.

Training and promotion in the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the World Soils Policy (decision 12/13)

77. The Committee approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by Bangladesh, Botswana, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Venezuela.

Environmental law (decision 12/14)

78. The Committee of the Whole recommended for adoption by the Governing Council a draft decision suggested by the Chairman, incorporating as section I a draft decision on the protection of the ozone layer, submitted by the Western European and Others Group, which was described by the sponsors as a compromise between those seeking the earliest possible adoption of the convention and those that wished for complete elaboration of a protocol concerning chlorofluorocarbons, to be ready for adoption at the same time as the convention. It was the understanding of all the sponsors that the protocol would be optional, i.e. that it would not be a requirement of signing and ratifying the convention that a party to it should also sign and ratify the protocol. The Assistant Executive Director said that the ozone layer section of the draft decision would have no financial implications not already budgeted for.

79. One representative expressed a preference for taking note of, rather than adopting, the Provisional Notification Scheme for Banned and Severely Restricted Chemicals referred to in section II, as the matter was still being discussed in his country. The Assistant Executive Director stated that the additional costs of operating the scheme for the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC) were estimated at \$60,000 a year.

80. On section III, concerning the Working Group of Experts on Environmental Law, the representative of Greece suggested that the Council should:

"Take note that a more equitable geographical representation should be encouraged in the work of the Working Group of Experts on Environmental Law and request the Executive Director to take whatever action he may deem necessary".

81. A draft decision on the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals submitted by the Western European and Others Group was incorporated in the decision as section IV. The Assistant Executive Director said that the provision by UNEP of secretariat services for the Convention might take the form of one Professional post, one General Service post, travel and certain running costs, up to a total of \$100,000, to be financed out of the Fund programme reserve.

Reform of the Information Service (decision 12/15)

82. The Committee approved a draft decision suggested by the Chairman, as amended by the representatives of Austria, the Ivory Coast and the Ukrainian SSR.

83. The Assistant Executive Director in the Office of the Environment Fund and Administration stated the Executive Director's interpretation that the word "periodic" in paragraph 3 meant at least every two years. The Committee agreed to that interpretation.

84. Additionally, the Assistant Executive Director stated that the Executive Director did not believe a newsletter could be a replacement for Mazingira, which should not be considered as a flagship publication. One representative said that the decision whether or not a new flagship publication was needed should be taken in the light of experience in the future development of the newsletter, while another said that the new Chief of the Information Service should be left to develop his publication strategy.

85. One representative requested the Executive Director, in view of the need for an environmental journal, to prepare and submit to the Governing Council at its thirteenth session a report on this matter.

86. The Assistant Executive Director said the financial implications of including in the newsletter national news on environmental conservation would be about \$30,000 per year, which had not been budgeted for.

87. In plenary, the draft decision was adopted by consensus. The Council confirmed the understanding of the Executive Director that paragraph 8 referred to the discontinuance of financial support for Mazingira.

Supporting measures (decision 12/16)

88. The Committee approved a draft decision submitted by the Chairman, incorporating a draft decision on the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean submitted by the Latin American Group. A representative of the secretariat said that the decision had no financial implications.

Regional activities (decision 12/17)

89. The Committee approved a draft decision on the programme of action on the African environment and the African subregional environmental groups submitted by the African Group. A representative of the secretariat said that the decision had no financial implications.

90. The Committee approved a draft decision on the strengthening of the Regional Office for Africa submitted by the African Group.

91. The representative of Morocco emphasized the need for subregional offices to bring UNEP closer to individual countries and foster co-operation, notably through the clearing-house and suggested that a pilot subregional office should be set up as a first step. In that context he drew attention to his Government's offer to provide facilities for the establishment of a subregional office for North Africa.

92. The representative of the Ivory Coast said his delegation had accepted the draft decision in the interests of consensus. However, it wished to place on record its formal disagreement with the reference to the establishment of subregional focal points, since the draft text on the subject prepared by an expert group meeting had not yet been submitted to Governments for approval. That should be done at the forthcoming African environmental conference. On the other hand, the Ivory Coast attached high priority to the establishment of subregional offices.

93. The Assistant Executive Director said that subregional offices had not been budgeted for, and would cost between \$60,000 and \$100,000 each. UNEP would require a clear mandate before any action to establish them could be considered.

94. The Committee also approved a draft decision on regional activities in Asia and the Pacific submitted by the Asian Group.

95. The Assistant Executive Director said that the secretariat could not increase the allocation of funds to one budget line unless it had precise indications as to the size of the increase and which programme or programmes should receive reduced allocations to offset it.

96. Finally, the Committee approved a draft decision on regional and subregional programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean submitted by the Latin American Group.

97. Two delegations expressed the view that there should be no restriction on the currencies to be used for additional support.

98. The Assistant Executive Director said that the financial implications of implementing paragraph 6 would be \$300,000 for subparagraph (a), \$90,000 for subparagraph (b) and \$110,000 for subparagraph (c).

99. In plenary, the draft decision was adopted by consensus. The Council confirmed the Executive Director's understanding that the qualification "within available resources" applied to the whole of paragraph 1 in decision 12/17 C.

100. Concerning paragraph 5 of decision 12/17 D, the Executive Director pointed out that a group of high-level financial experts had already prepared for the General Assembly a comprehensive report on financing within the framework of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. Accordingly, he proposed to comply with the request made to him by updating the existing report. The Council agreed to that proposal.

Financial framework for the Fund programme (decision 12/18)

101. Concerning paragraph 1 of the decision, the Executive Director said he wished to spell out the implications of the future specified by the Committee. A level of expenditure of \$50 million would imply planning on a commitment of \$62 million for the biennium 1986-1987. That figure in turn implied contributions to the Environment Fund of \$74 million.

ANNEX I

Decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its twelfth session

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Other decision

Provisional agenda, date and place of the thirteenth session of the Governing Council

56

12/1. Programme policy and implementation

The Governing Council,

Having considered the annual report of the Executive Director, 1/ as well as the introductory report of the Executive Director and its addenda, 2/ including the introductory statement of the Executive Director,

I. Policy matters

1. Notes with appreciation the information provided in the Executive Director's annual report and introductory reports on the implementation of decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its eleventh session;

2. Notes the resolutions of the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, and of the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1983, which called specifically for action by the United Nations Environment Programme, and the follow-up and implementation of certain of those resolutions envisaged by the Executive Director;

II. Environmental perspective to the year 2000 and beyond

1. Recalls its decision at its eleventh session 3/ to establish an open-ended Intergovernmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee, as one of the points recommended by the Executive Director in his report, 4/ to assist it in carrying out its mandate in regard to the Environmental Perspective; to hold a first session of the Committee in conjunction with the twelfth session of the governing Council and to consider the timing of future sessions of the Committee in the light of a progress report by the Executive Director to that session of the Council; and to decide upon the membership of the Committee in accordance with a regional breakdown proposed by its Bureau; 5/

2. Notes the progress made in the establishment of the Special Commission, as reported to the Governing Council by the Executive Director;

3. Decides upon the following membership of the open-ended Intergovernmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee:

1/ UNEP/GC.12/2 and Corr.1.

2/ UNEP/GC.12/3 and Corr.1 and 2, UNEP/GC.12/3/Add.1 and UNEP/GC.12/3/Add.2.

3/ Decision 11/3, para. 2.

4/ UNEP/GC.11/3/Add.3, annex, paras. 1-5.

5/ UNEP/GC.11/18, chap. II, para. 13.

Algeria
Argentina
Austria
Bangladesh
Botswana
Brazil
Cameroon
Canada
Chile
China
Denmark
Germany, Federal Republic of
Greece
India
Indonesia

Ivory Coast
Jamaica
Japan
Kenya
Malawi
Malaysia
Mexico
Morocco
Netherlands
Poland
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Switzerland
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

4. Considers that the Committee, in assisting the Governing Council in developing the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly, should conduct its work in the light of relevant Governing Council decisions and General Assembly resolutions, and of the intention of the Council and the Assembly that the work should take into account relevant proposals expected to be made in the report of the Special Commission within two years of the latter's establishment;

5. Further considers that the specific functions and scheduling of the work of the Committee within the framework of General Assembly resolution 38/161 of 19 December 1983 entail a relationship with the work of the Special Commission which accordingly would require the Committee to:

(a) Communicate to the Commission matters relevant to the environment known to be of concern to the Governing Council and the international community, a function which initially could be discharged at the Committee's first session by agreeing to convey the documentation listed by the Executive Director in his progress report on the process of preparation of the Environmental Perspective; 6/

(b) Receive from the Special Commission, at a preliminary stage in their formulation, the conclusions expected to be proposed so that the Committee may make its views known for consideration by the Special Commission;

(c) Consider the final report of the Commission, prepare comments on it and, drawing on its recommendations, propose an Environmental Perspective for transmission by the Governing Council to the General Assembly;

6. Invites the Chairman of the Committee, in consultation with the Executive Director, to convene in September 1984 a consultative meeting of the Committee with the participation of the permanent representatives in Nairobi to the United Nations on the subject of the Governing Council's expectations regarding matters it hopes will, inter alia, receive consideration by the Commission, and also invites the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission to attend the meeting;

6/ UNEP/GC.12/3/Add.1.

7. Decides that the Committee should hold its second session in conjunction with the thirteenth session of the Governing Council in 1985, at which time the Council and the Committee may consider further work for the Committee, including the periodicity of its sessions in the light of the progress of the Commission's work, and in the light of consultations to be held by the Executive Director with the Special Commission concerning progress in the formulation of the Commission's conclusions;

8. Requests the Executive Director to transmit the report of the first session of the Committee, on behalf of the Governing Council, to the Commission as a preliminary input to the commission's work.

16th meeting
29 May 1984

12/2. Co-ordination

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Governing Council at its twelfth session, 7/ and the Executive Director's report on the sixth joint meeting of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the bureau of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the bureau of its Governing Council, 8/

Recalling General Assembly resolution 37/202 of 20 December 1982 by which, inter alia, the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system were requested to report on the results achieved in their respective sectors with regard to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Recalling also its decision 11/1 of 24 May 1983, in section I, paragraph 1, of which it decided to consider the subject under an item on the agenda of its twelfth session,

1. United Nations system-wide co-ordination

1. Expresses its appreciation of the annual report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

2. Notes from the annual and introductory reports of the Executive Director 9/ of the progress made in the exercise of the co-ordinating and catalytic role of the United Nations Environment Programme;

7/ UNEP/GC.12/8 and Corr.1 and UNEP/GC.12/8/Add.1 and Corr.1.

8/ UNEP/GC.12/10.

9/ UNEP/GC.12/2 and Corr.1 and UNEP/GC.12/3 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and 2.

II. Environmental considerations in the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade

1. Takes note of the review of the implementation of the environmental aspects of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade contained in the report prepared under the aegis of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination; 10/

2. Reiterates the importance it attaches to environmental considerations for the successful implementation of the Strategy, and invites the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade to take fully into account the need to stress those considerations, particularly in any adjustment of the policy measures for the remaining period of the Decade;

3. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit the report prepared under the aegis of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, together with the comments of the Council thereon, 11/ on behalf of the Governing Council, to the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;

III. Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

1. Notes the report of the Executive Director on the sixth joint meeting of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the bureau of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the bureau of its Governing Council; 8/

2. Expresses its satisfaction at the continuing co-operation between the secretariats of the Programme and the Centre;

3. Requests the Executive Director to continue and where possible increase such co-operation;

4. Notes that the Commission on Human Settlements is expected to consider at its eighth session the necessity of annual joint bureau meetings;

5. Reaffirms the view regarding joint bureau meetings stated in section IV, paragraph 6 of its decision 11/1 of 24 May 1983;

10/ UNEP/GC.12/8/Add.1 and Corr.1.

11/ See chap. IV above, paras. 11-15.

IV. Relations with non-governmental organizations

1. Welcomes the increasing co-operation of the United Nations environment Programme with non-governmental organizations;
2. Endorses the Executive Director's efforts to extend such co-operation to non-governmental organizations concerned with development issues;
3. Requests the Executive Director to continue and where possible increase such co-operation.

14th meeting
28 May 1984

12/3. State-of-the-environment reports

A. Environment in the dialogue between and among developed and developing countries

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 11/1 of 24 May 1983 whereby, in section II, paragraph 3, it decided that the topic to be considered in the 1984 report on the state of the environment would be "The environment in the dialogue between and among developed and developing countries",

Recalling further that the intent of the report 12/ is to engender a better understanding of the central role of environmental issues in the broader economic and social context,

Conscious that the perceived mutual interests in respect of environmental issues have created an atmosphere of harmony in the Governing Council which can lead to agreements that might help to build confidence and a further understanding on the continuing economic and social dialogue,

Hoping that these positive conditions prevailing in the Governing Body of the United Nations Environment Programme can lead to further steps in the direction of agreed commitment and specific action,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the Executive Director's intention to produce a final version of the state-of-the-environment report for 1984, on environment in the dialogue between and among developed and developing countries, taking into consideration the views expressed by Governments prior to and during the debate on the report at the Governing Council's twelfth session, and to consult with Governments through the permanent representatives in Nairobi to the United Nations Environment Programme before issuing the final version;

2. Encourages the Executive Director to continue - wherever feasible given the nature of the topic - to suggest specific action in conjunction with future state-of-the-environment reports;

3. Encourages all governmental organizations and bodies engaged in environmental activities to continue their efforts for sustained global progress with special focus on the needs of developing countries, thus contributing to the objectives of the continuing dialogue;

4. Agrees to continued maintenance of support by the United Nations Environment Programme for this dialogue and for co-operation with a view to facilitating specific agreements and elaborating actions for substantial environmental undertakings;

5. Requests the Executive Director to forward chapters I to III of the final version of the 1984 state-of-the-environment report to the General Assembly of the United Nations, its Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the Fourth General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Conference on Population, the Intergovernmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee on the Environmental Perspective and the Special Commission on the Environmental Perspective;

6. Decides to submit the Executive Director's suggestions to the Governing Council for further action, as contained in chapter IV of his report, to the permanent representatives in Nairobi to the United Nations Environment Programme for their consideration in preparation for the thirteenth session of the Governing Council.

14th meeting
28 May 1984

B. Emerging environmental issues

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the reports of the Executive Director on emerging environmental issues 13/ and on environmental events in 1983; 14/

2. Requests the Executive Director to update the list of emerging issues for each session of the Governing Council by:

(a) Adding any new issues that might have emerged during the period preceding the Governing Council session;

(b) Revising the list to include important information additional to what is included in the report that might add to knowledge of the issues;

13/ UNEP/GC.12/11/Add.1.

14/ UNEP/GC.12/11/Add.3.

3. Considers that the following issues among those presented in the report of the Executive Director should be taken into consideration in the preparation of biennial programme budgets within the system-wide medium-term environment programme: air pollution of cities in developing countries and biotechnology.

14th meeting
28 May 1984

C. Future state-of-the-environment reports

The Governing Council

1. Decides that a comprehensive report on the state of the environment should be prepared every ten years, the next such report to be submitted to the Council in 1992.

2. Decides that the items to be considered in the Executive Director's report on the state of the environment of 1985 will be population and the environment and environmental aspects of emerging agricultural technology.

14th meeting
28 May 1984

12/4. Extension and strengthening of the clearing-house mechanism

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 10/4, 10/6 and 10/26 of 31 May 1982,

Aware that, in response to those decisions, the Executive Director has established a clearing-house mechanism on an experimental basis,

Acknowledging the positive results achieved in carrying out the clearing-house experiment, as described in the Executive Director's progress report, 15/

Noting that the results already achieved require follow-up measures and steps and that additional efforts must be undertaken,

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments of Argentina, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden and international organizations such as the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations and the United Nations development agencies for their support to the clearing-house experiment.

1. Decides to extend the clearing-house experiment for three years;

15/ UNEP/GC.12/4.

2. Requests the Executive Director to establish a Clearing-house Unit with no more than five appropriately qualified Professional staff plus support services, in order to execute the clearing-house responsibilities of the United Nations Environment Programme, with a view to the Unit also carrying out the Programme's brokerage functions for other relevant projects;

3. Requests the Executive Director to seek funding for long-term programmes already proposed to deal with serious environmental problems in additional developing countries, and to initiate, within available resources, new programmes for that purpose, having particular regard to those countries that have relatively undeveloped institutional and legislative environmental support structures;

4. Further requests the Executive Director to initiate, within available resources, programmes for the integration of environmental considerations into development planning processes in additional developing countries;

5. Also requests the Executive Director:

(a) To consider other means of promoting the clearing-house concept;

(b) To ensure that clearing-house projects are formulated, where appropriate, in consultation and co-ordination with the representatives of other United Nations organizations, bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations present in the beneficiary countries;

6. Calls upon Governments to contribute in cash or in kind over the next three years to support key clearing-house activities, specifically:

(a) To finance technical teams to work with developing countries on strategies for dealing with serious environmental problems, and to help them identify and develop specific projects which can be proposed to donors;

(b) To finance consultants to assist beneficiary countries in formulating and/or implementing projects;

7. Also calls upon donor countries and institutions and other countries in a position to do so to support actively project proposals emanating from the work of the Clearing-house Unit;

8. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its fourteenth session on the implementation of the present decision, including information on the status of projects emanating from the work of the Clearing-house Unit, in conjunction with the further implementation of Council decision 10/4.

14th meeting
28 May 1984

12/5. Population and the environment

The Governing Council,

Noting the World Plan of Action adopted at the World Population Conference held at Bucharest in 1974, which in paragraph 70 states that "it is imperative that all countries, and within them all social sectors, should adapt themselves to more rational utilization of natural resources", 16/

Further noting that, despite the success in decreasing the rate of population growth, the global population continues to increase substantially,

Fully aware that accelerated development efforts together with population growth exert combined and increasing pressures upon natural resources and the environment, and that an improved quality of life can be achieved only if development is commensurate with sound environmental management,

1. Urges the United Nations Environment Programme to participate fully in the forthcoming International Conference on Population to be held in Mexico City in August 1984;

2. Requests the Executive Director to accord priority, within available resources, to the work towards harmonious interaction between population, resources, development and the environment, an area heretofore accorded only limited attention;

3. Requests the Executive Director to treat the issue of population and the environment in the state-of-the-environment report for the year 1985, in the light of the results of the International Conference on Population.

14th meeting
28 May 1984

12/6. Impacts of apartheid on the environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 9/9 of 26 May 1981 and its decision 10/7 of 28 May 1982 on impacts of apartheid on the environment,

Aware of the fact that apartheid is a crime against mankind and that it represents a great threat to peace and international understanding between peoples and countries of the world,

16/ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, 1974
(United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I, para. 70.

Recognizing the need for greater understanding and appreciation of the real and potential impacts of the apartheid and bantustan policies on the people of South Africa and the neighbouring States with respect to their human environment - more specifically, land, natural resources, human settlements - and the question of fundamental human rights, human health and physical, mental and social well-being,

Recognizing further that such knowledge and information are vitally necessary in order to understand the full dimensions of the damage which the apartheid and bantustan policies of South Africa have caused and still continue to cause to millions of people in southern Africa;

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Executive Director on the environmental impacts of apartheid with specific reference to industry in the urban and rural areas in South Africa; 17/

2. Notes with grave concern that serious environmental deterioration continues with regard to the establishment of polluting industries in urban and rural areas (townships and so-called bantustans);

3. Reaffirms its sympathy and solidarity with the victims of apartheid for the hardships and deprivation to which they are subjected;

4. Further strongly reaffirms its condemnation of the apartheid system in its various manifestations, and calls upon the world community to exercise its moral obligation to bring this historical injustice to a quick end;

5. Requests the Executive Director to continue to monitor developments pertaining to environmental impacts of apartheid, including the adverse and severe environmental conditions under which black workers are working, especially in mines;

6. Further requests the Executive Director, in conjunction with other United Nations agencies, to respond to appeals for assistance from national liberation movements for victims of apartheid with respect to their educational and project needs on environmental issues for which budgetary provision should be made in terms of the programme priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme.

15th meeting
28 May 1984

12/7. Israel's decision to build a canal linking the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 36/150 of 16 December 1981, 37/122 of 16 December 1982 and 38/85 of 15 December 1983,

Recalling also Governing Council decision 11/4 of 23 May 1983,

Bearing in mind the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm in 1972, 18/ and the Nairobi Declaration of 1982 regarding the protection and enhancement of the environment, 19/

Recognizing that the proposed canal to be constructed partly through the Gaza Strip, a Palestinian territory occupied in 1967, would violate the principles of international law and affect the interests of the Palestinian people,

Confident that the canal linking the Mediterranean Sea with the Dead Sea, if executed by Israel, will cause direct, serious and irreparable damage to man and his environment in Jordan and to Jordan's rights and legitimate vital interests in the economic, agricultural, demographic and ecological fields,

1. Deplores Israel's non-compliance with General Assembly resolutions 37/122 and 38/85 and its refusal to receive the United Nations team of experts;

2. Recalls the General Assembly's demand in its resolutions 37/122 and 38/85 that Israel not construct this canal and cease forthwith all actions and/or plans taken towards the implementation of this project;

3. Further recalls the General Assembly's call in the same resolutions upon all States, specialized agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations not to assist, directly or indirectly, in the preparation for and execution of this project;

4. Requests the Executive Director to facilitate the work of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in monitoring and assessing, on a continuing basis, all aspects - especially ecological ones - of the adverse effects on Jordan and on the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, arising from the implementation of the Israeli decision to construct the canal,

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

19/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25), part one, annex II.

as well as in the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, and to report to the Governing Council at its thirteenth session on the implementation of the present decision.

15th meeting
28 May 1984

12/8. Smoking in meeting rooms

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in fighting pollution,

Noting the General Assembly's directives concerning smoking in meeting rooms,

Aware of the health dangers of smoking to smokers and to others,

1. Decides that the no-smoking rule shall be observed from the beginning of its thirteenth session in all the meeting rooms where its functions are being performed;

2. Encourages all meetings discussing environmental issues nationally, regionally or globally to observe the same restriction.

15th meeting
28 May 1984

12/9. United Nations accommodation at Nairobi

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/208 of 21 December 1977, 34/233 of 20 December 1979, 35/222 of 17 December 1980, 36/235, section IX, of 18 December 1981, 37/237, section IX, of 21 December 1982 and 38/234, section XXII, of 20 December 1983, regarding the United Nations accommodation at Nairobi,

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1. Welcomes the announcement by His Excellency Mr. Daniel arap Moi, President of Kenya, on 21 May 1984 granting the United Nations an additional 40 acres of land for the United Nations accommodation at Nairobi;

2. Recommends to the General Assembly the acceptance, with appreciation, of this generous donation;

3. Welcomes also the announcement by the Government of Kenya of action to facilitate access to the accommodation by means of road improvements;

4. Expresses its appreciation to the Government and people of Kenya for the generous and continued hospitality they have extended to the United Nations organizations working in Kenya;

Commends the Executive Director for the effective manner in which he discharged the responsibilities entrusted to him by the United Nations General Assembly and the Secretary-General with respect to the construction of the United Nations accommodation at Nairobi, and particularly for the fact that the construction project was completed according to schedule and, more important, within the cost estimates approved by the General Assembly.

15th meeting
28 May 1984

12/10. Desertification

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 9/22 of 26 May 1981 on action to combat desertification,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the general assessment of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 1978-1984 20/ and the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, 21/ as well as the relevant parts of the Executive Director's annual report 22/ and his report on programme matters, 23/

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Executive Director for his comprehensive and action-oriented report;

2. Also expresses its appreciation to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for its analytical report;

3. Notes with great concern that during the period under review desertification has continued to spread and intensify in developing countries, and particularly in Africa;

4. Reconfirms the validity of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, and the general appropriateness of the institutional arrangements established by the General Assembly for the follow-up of its implementation;

5. Endorses the view of the Executive Director that the implementation of the Plan has to be more focused on the most affected countries and on actions to arrest desertification giving priority to areas offering the best chances for substantial rehabilitation;

20/ UNEP/GC.12/9 and Corr.1.

21/ UNEP/GC.12/8 and Corr.1.

22/ UNEP/GC.12/2 and Corr.1.

23/ UNEP/GC.12/12 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

6. Expresses its satisfaction with the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in establishing the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative on the African Social and Economic Crisis, a crisis caused among other things by prolonged drought;
7. Appeals to all Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to give due consideration to strengthening their financial and technical support to the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region;
8. Takes note with satisfaction of the positive experiment undertaken by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office as a United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Environment Programme joint venture in providing support to nineteen African countries, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, in implementing the Plan of Action;
9. Requests the Executive Director to approve for the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office concrete biennial programmes with specific goals to allow the governing councils of both the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme to measure achievements within the framework of the implementation of the Plan of Action;
10. Decides to include Ghana and Togo among the countries eligible to receive assistance through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in implementing the Plan of Action;
11. Urges Governments of countries suffering from or prone to desertification to consider favourably giving priority to the establishment of national programmes to combat desertification and also to consider establishing appropriate national machinery for that purpose, bearing in mind as appropriate the recommendations contained in chapter VII, section C, of the report of the Executive Director, 24/ and to give particular emphasis to designing such programmes in harmony with existing social, cultural and ecological systems of the peoples involved;
12. Authorizes the Executive Director to assist, as appropriate, Governments which so desire in the above endeavours;
13. Also authorizes the Executive Director to assist Governments in applying, in the context of the implementation of the Plan of Action, appropriate land use policies in arid, semi-arid and subhumid regions suffering from intensive soil degradation which diminishes the potential of the land;
14. Urges Governments and international bodies to consider:
- (a) Examining their ongoing and planned development projects to ensure maximum effectiveness in combating desertification;
- (b) Completing the national assessments of desertification and establishing mechanisms to monitor the status and trends;

24/ UNEP/GC.12/9 and Corr.1.

(c) Reviewing and revising accordingly policies and practices which serve as impediments or disincentives to successful desertification control measures at the local level;

15. Emphasizes the importance of regional co-operation as an effective means of increasing the efficient use of financial and technical resources, with particular emphasis accorded to co-operative research, training and information exchange;

16. Reaffirms the importance of the role of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of action-oriented projects, and the need for continuing support for their actions;

17. Reaffirms the central role of the United Nations Environment Programme in catalysing, co-ordinating and assessing the implementation of the Plan of Action at the international level;

18. Calls upon all countries, in particular the developed countries and those in a position to do so, to increase their assistance to countries suffering from desertification, including the financing of subregional and regional programmes, and to contribute to the Special Account created under General Assembly resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977;

19. Welcomes General Assembly resolution 38/163 of 19 December 1983 and fully supports the intention of the Executive Director to request, on behalf of the Secretary-General, all Member States that have not yet done so to provide as soon as possible their comments to the Secretary-General in order to allow the General Assembly to consider taking a decision at its fortieth session on measures designed to obtain additional and predictable financing;

20. Invites all Governments, particularly those of donor members, to become more involved in the work of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, especially in the process of formulation of projects to be presented to the Group;

21. Requests the Executive Director to consider the implementation, in permanent consultation as the case may be with the Governments concerned, the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, regional organizations and regional intergovernmental meetings, of the recommendations for regional action and overall support contained in chapter VII, sections D and F, of his report; 22/

22. Decides:

(a) To request the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the other United Nations organs concerned to implement their agreement in the Environment Co-ordination Board in 1978 to provide additional staff support for the Desertification Branch;

(b) To authorize the Executive Director, should no response, or only a partial response, to that request have been received within six months, to seek from the Governing Council, if necessary, the appropriations to enable him to make use of up to five posts, as required, from those frozen for 1984-1985 to supplement the present establishment of the Branch;

(c) To request Governments in a position to do so to second qualified and experienced personnel to the Desertification Branch at their own expense, the numbers, duration of assignment and specific functions of such personnel to be at the discretion of the Executive Director;

23. Further decides to give the Desertification Branch a greater degree of autonomy in fulfilling its functions by establishing it as a programme activity centre, with the priority tasks of building up and disseminating to Governments a data base on desertification control, including case-studies, evaluations, national focal points concerned with developing national programmes, projects being undertaken, sources of expertise within countries, individual experts with relevant experience, non-governmental organizations active in the field, etc., drawing, where possible, on information already available within and outside the United Nations Environment Programme, notably the Global Environmental Monitoring System and the International Referral System for sources of environmental information;

24. Invites the General Assembly to expand the role of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control to include explicitly responsibility for advising the Executive Director on:

(a) The progress and effectiveness of activities implemented under the Plan of Action, identifying constraints and possible solutions to problems, taking account of relevant evaluations and case-studies;

(b) Programme priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(c) Measures required to improve implementation of the Plan of Action on a regional and world-wide basis;

25. Requests the Executive Director to examine and clarify the functions and outputs of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification, and to recommend to the Governing Council at its thirteenth session appropriate changes for action to ensure full consultation and co-operation between the agencies of the United Nations;

26. Authorizes the Executive Director, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, 25/ to submit on behalf of the Governing Council a progress report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, based on the relevant parts of his annual report and the comments of the Governing Council thereon, to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session through the Economic and Social Council;

27. Also authorizes the Executive Director to submit on behalf of the Governing Council, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, 26/ a progress report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to

25/ General Assembly resolutions 32/172 of 19 December 1977 and 35/73 of 5 December 1980.

26/ General Assembly resolutions 33/88 of 15 December 1978, 34/187 of 18 December 1979, 35/72 of 5 December 1980, 36/190 of 17 December 1981, 37/216 of 20 December 1982 and 38/164 of 19 December 1983.

Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region, based on the relevant parts of his annual report and the comments of the Council thereon, to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session through the Economic and Social Council;

28. Decides that a further overall assessment of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification should be carried out in 1992;

29. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at each of its sessions on progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

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12/11. Environmental assessment

The Governing Council

1. Notes the progress made in the implementation of decision 11/1, section 2, paragraph 8, concerning the monitoring of acidity of rainfall in the developing countries; 27/

2. Notes also the report of the Executive Director on the list of environmentally dangerous chemical substances and processes of global significance; 28/

3. Notes further the report of the Executive Director on the preparation and presentation of environmental data; 29/

4. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To refer the published report on the list of environmentally dangerous chemical substances and processes of global significance to Governments, relevant international organizations, industry and non-governmental organizations for further study and action, as appropriate;

(b) To obtain their comments on the report, in particular on the recommendations contained therein;

(c) To submit an updated version of the report to the Governing Council at its fourteenth session in 1987, taking into consideration the comments and suggestions received, and evaluating, using to the maximum extent possible information already available in other United Nations bodies, the real extent to which developing and developed countries participate in the production, distribution and release of environmentally dangerous chemical substances;

27/ UNEP/GC.12/12, paras. 12 and 13.

28/ UNEP/GC.12/16.

29/ UNEP/GC.12/11/Add.2.

5. Invites the Executive Director:

(a) To initiate publication in 1985, using the best practicable means, of as many as possible of the environmental indicators listed in annex I to the report on the preparation and presentation of environmental data, continuing with routine updates and extensions thereafter, and presenting the indicators so as to highlight trends in the global environment and provide a listing of related variables that will be useful in assessment;

(b) To commence compiling, in co-operation with appropriate United Nations and intergovernmental bodies and following the approach outlined in section C of the report, a list of selected environmental data sources;

(c) To continue the preparation and publication of assessments of important environmental problems according to the schedule given in annex III and the approach set out in section D of the report;

(d) To utilize the annual environmental indicators publications in the preparation of comprehensive reports on the state of the environment, the first of these to update and refine the report on The World Environment 1972-1982. 30/

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12/12. Environmental management

The Governing Council

I. Marine mammals

1. Endorses the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals 31/ as a timely and valuable framework for policy planning and programme formulation by the international community;

2. Notes the efforts of the Executive Director to prepare and submit a financial plan for the implementation of the Plan of Action;

3. Appeals to all Governments and international organizations to make firm commitments to the Plan of Action;

4. Requests the Executive Director to promote a broad-based response to the Plan of Action, drawing upon the capabilities of existing institutions to the maximum extent possible and utilizing the catalytic role of the United Nations Environment Programme as appropriate;

5. Requests the Executive Director to take the following approach in securing additional financial commitments in support of the Plan of Action:

30/ The World Environment 1972-1982, Natural Resources and the Environment Series, vol. 8 (Dublin, Tycooole International Publishing Ltd., 1982).

31/ UNEP/GC.12/15, annex I.

(a) To circulate to potential donors fact sheets on individual projects identified for the implementation of the Plan;

(b) To investigate the possibility, in the case of projects with a strong regional component, of adopting a regional approach to their funding in consultation with the countries concerned;

6. Invites the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its thirteenth session on the response of Governments and international organizations to the Plan of Action;

II. World Soils Policy

1. Endorses the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the World Soils Policy 32/ as a timely and valuable framework for policy planning and programme formulation by the international community;

2. Notes the efforts of the Executive Director to prepare and submit a financial plan for the implementation of the Plan of Action;

3. Appeals to all Governments and international organizations to make firm commitments to the Plan of Action;

4. Requests the Executive Director to promote a broad-based response to the Plan of Action, drawing upon the capabilities of existing institutions to the maximum extent possible and utilizing the catalytic role of the Programme as appropriate;

5. Requests the Executive Director to take the following approach in securing additional financial commitments in support of the Plan of Action:

(a) To circulate to potential donors fact sheets on individual projects identified for the implementation of the Plan;

(b) To investigate the possibility, in the case of projects with a strong regional component, of adopting a regional approach to their funding in consultation with the countries concerned;

6. Invites the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its thirteenth session on the response of Governments and international organizations to the Plan of Action;

32/ UNEP/GC.12/14, annex I.

III. Tropical forests and woodlands

1. Notes the progress made in the implementation of decision 10/14, section II, paragraph 3, regarding the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics; 33/
2. Welcomes the adoption of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1983 by the United Nations Conference on Tropical Timber;
3. Urges Governments which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Agreement to enable it to enter into force on the appointed date of 1 October 1984;
4. Authorizes the Executive Director to establish close and active co-operation with the International Tropical Timber Organization;

IV. Water

Notes the progress made in the implementation of decision 11/7, part five, and in particular the establishment of the Advisory Group on Water Resources, the convening of the working group on large-scale water projects, and the active participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Steering Committee for the International Water Supply and Sanitation Decade; 34/

V. Genetic resources

1. Notes the progress made in the implementation of decision 11/7, part six; 35/
2. Urges Governments and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to co-operate fully with the Executive Director in this exercise;
3. Welcomes the adoption of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources by the twenty-second Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
4. Urges Governments that have not yet done so to adhere to the Undertaking and to support and participate in the international arrangements outlined therein;
5. Authorizes the Executive Director to establish close and active co-operation with the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources of the Food and Agriculture Organization with regard to the implementation of the Undertaking;

33/ UNEP/GC.12/12, paras. 4-7.

34/ UNEP/GC.12/2, chap. IV, paras. 141-146.

35/ UNEP/GC.12/12, para. 42.

VI. Wildlife conservation and management

Takes note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the contribution of the United Nations system to the conservation and management of the Latin American cultural and natural heritage 36/ and its progress report on the implementation of recommendations on regional programmes in the conservation and management of African wildlife, 37/ as well as the comments of the Executive Director on the two reports; 38/

VII. Industry and environment

Notes the progress made in the implementation of decision 11/7, part two, section A; 39/

VIII. Marine pollution

1. Notes the progress made in the implementation of decision 11/7, part four, section A, and welcomes the increased co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission; 40/

2. Notes also the progress made in the implementation of decision 11/1, section II, paragraph 8, with regard to the review of environmental implications of the disposal of radioactive wastes at sea; 41/

3. Urges the Executive Director to continue to co-operate with the International Atomic Energy Agency and other relevant organizations in studies in the area of the environmental impact of the disposal of radioactive wastes on the sea-bed as well as in the area of sea-bed mining;

IX. Regional seas

1. Notes the progress made in the implementation of decision 11/7, part four, section B, on the expansion and implementation of the regional seas programme; 42/

36/ UNEP/GC.12/L.1.

37/ UNEP/GC.12/L.3.

38/ UNEP/GC.12/L.5.

39/ UNEP/GC.12/12, paras. 21-23.

40/ UNEP/GC.12/12, paras. 35 and 36.

41/ UNEP/GC.12/2, chap. IV, para. 205.

42/ UNEP/GC.12/12, paras. 37-39.

2. Urges concerned States to give full support to the adoption and ratification of relevant regional conventions and protocols for the protection and development of the marine environment and coastal areas;

3. Invites participating member States to pay their contributions to the trust funds established in support of the implementation of the regional action plans.

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12/13. Training and promotion in the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the World Soils policy

The Governing Council,

Considering Governing Council decisions 6/5 C of 24 May 1978, 7/6 B of 3 May 1979, 8/10 of 29 April 1980, 9/15 B of 26 May 1981, 10/14 of 3 May 1982 and 11/7, part one, paragraph 8, of 24 May 1983, by means of which member States have shown their will to adopt a World Soils Policy, based on national policies,

Considering also the report of the Executive Director on the draft plan of action and financial plan for the World Soils Policy, according to which the limited response that the appeal to member States by the United Nations Environment Programme has had is due to the fact that "In many countries, there is a lack of recognition of the problems on a national level and a lack of resources to attack or overcome them", 43/

Considering further the recommendation made by the high-level expert groups convened by the United Nations Environment Programme in co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Society of Soil Science (Rome, 1980 and 1981, and Geneva, 1982), which pointed to the need to promote the training of national technical cadres for planning and executing soils policies,

Recalling that both the Declaration adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, 1972, 44/ and the Nairobi Declaration, 1982, 45/ insist on the need to promote public awareness of the importance of the environment and the need to promote training at the national level,

43/ UNEP/GC.12/14, para. 3.

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

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

Taking into account the importance that transfer of technology has, as a durable and efficient form of international assistance, by means of training national cadres that will originate an endogenous movement of the peoples to face their problems,

Taking into account also the United Nations programme on major world conferences, which have mobilized Governments and the scientific community and given to the subjects dealt with universal momentum and publicity,

1. Decides:

(a) That, in the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the World Soils Policy, the highest priority should be given to training national technical cadres for planning and executing national plans on soils policy;

(b) That the training programmes should be carried out, preferably, by means of establishing or promoting, in existing universities or agencies, national or regional soils, water and forests centres, that will give continuity to the functions of research, teaching and applying soil sciences, as well as promoting public awareness of soil problems;

(c) That, as far as possible, the research programmes included in the Plan of Action that has been endorsed by the Council be entrusted to these centres in order to give the respective tasks continuity and adaptation to regional characteristics and needs;

2. Calls upon the Executive Director to assess the need for and feasibility of convening a world conference of Governments and international organizations for the purpose of achieving co-operation in the implementation of the World Soils Policy.

12/14. Environmental law

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 11/7 part two, section B, of 24 May 1983,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on programme matters and other documents in the field of environmental law, 46/

Noting with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of the environmental law programme, in particular the follow-up to the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law, held at Montevideo from 28 October to 6 November 1981, 47/

46/ UNEP/GC.12/12 and Add.1, UNEP/GC.12/18 and UNEP/GC/INFORMATION/11.

47/ UNEP/GC.10/5/Add.2, annex, chap. 1.

Conscious of the need for a concentration of efforts to ensure the effective and timely implementation of those parts of the programme upon which work has been initiated,

Appreciating the financial support given by, inter alia, the Governments of Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands for holding expert group meetings in the context of the implementation of the programme,

I. Protection of the ozone layer

1. Recalls its decision 84 C (V) of 25 May 1977 on the establishment of the Co-ordinating Committee on the Ozone Layer and on the World Plan of Action on the Ozone Layer, and its decision 9/13 B of 26 May 1981 in which it decided to initiate work aimed at the elaboration of a global framework convention for the protection of the ozone layer and to establish an ad hoc working group of legal and technical experts to that effect;

2. Expresses its appreciation of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts for the Elaboration of a Global Framework Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its work on a protocol to the draft convention;

3. Requests the Executive Director to convene a fourth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group in 1984 in order to complete work on the Convention to the extent possible and to continue to elaborate a possible draft protocol concerning control of chlorofluorocarbons, and to ensure that any report from the Working Group is brought to the attention of the diplomatic conference referred to in paragraph 4 below;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to convene, in the first quarter of 1985, a diplomatic conference for the finalization, adoption and signature of the global framework convention and for the consideration of a report from the Working Group concerning further work on a protocol;

5. Calls upon Governments and international organizations concerned to participate fully in the above-mentioned conference and session;

6. Appeals to Governments to provide the necessary financial resources and/or facilities for the conference and session;

7. Requests the Co-ordinating Committee on the Ozone Layer to continue to provide expert scientific evaluations of the state of the ozone layer and the nature and scale of any likely modification thereof, and to examine in this connection, if possible within two years, the likely effects of the substances listed in annex I to the draft convention submitted to the Governing Council at its twelfth session; 48/ such substances should be evaluated singly, interactively and under appropriate emission scenarios;

48/ UNEP/GC.12/12/Add.1, annex I.

8. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its thirteenth session on the progress made on the actions set out in the present decision;

II. Other topics of the Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law 49/

1. Expresses satisfaction at the results of the first sessions of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the Protection of the Marine Environment against Pollution from Land-based Sources, the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts of Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes, and the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts for the Exchange of Information on Potentially Harmful Chemicals (in Particular Pesticides) in International Trade; 50/

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue the work initiated by these groups, in accordance with the recommendations submitted by them, and to take all appropriate measures to expedite the preparation of the guidelines and principles elaborated by these groups with a view to their early adoption by the Governing Council;

3. Calls upon Governments to participate actively in the work of these groups, and to consider hosting or funding future sessions of the groups;

4. Welcomes the offer by the Government of Canada to host a future session of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the Protection of the Marine Environment against Pollution from Land-based Sources;

5. Adopts the Provisional Notification Scheme for Banned and Severely Restricted Chemicals, 51/ calls upon all Governments and the Executive Director to take the necessary steps to bring the Scheme into effect as soon as possible, and requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its fourteenth session on the experience of Governments in implementing the Scheme;

6. Requests the Executive Director to bring the reports of the working groups to the attention of the other international organizations and bodies concerned, and to continue close consultation and collaboration with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the preparation and further elaboration of the draft guidelines with a view to avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort and maintaining the co-ordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme in environmental matters;

49/ UNEP/GC.10/5/Add.2, annex, chap. II.

50/ UNEP/GC.12/2, chap. IV, para. 235, and UNEP/GC.12/12/Add.1, paras. 4 and 5.

51/ UNEP/GC.12/12/Add.1, annex II.

III. Working Group of Experts on Environmental Law

1. Welcomes the financial support offered by the Government of the United States of America for holding the next session of the Working Group of Experts on Environmental Law, scheduled for 26 to 29 June 1984 in Washington, on the subject of principles and guidelines with regard to environmental impact assessment;

2. Calls upon Governments to participate actively in the work of the Group and to consider hosting or funding future sessions of the Group on the above subject;

IV. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

1. Welcomes the intention of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to host the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in Bonn in 1985, and to facilitate the establishment of a secretariat which would be provisionally located in Bonn until the Conference takes a final decision;

2. Authorizes the Executive Director to provide secretariat services for the implementation of the Convention in accordance with its article IX, and to make and appropriate financial contribution to the expenses of this secretariat during the first four years after entry into force of the Convention;

3. Further authorizes the Executive Director:

(a) To call the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties for 1985;

(b) To negotiate with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany all questions concerning the secretariat for the period until the Conference of the Parties takes a final decision, and concerning the financial and technical requirements of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 1985, including the conclusion of all necessary arrangements;

V. Information on environmental law

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment 52/ and authorizes him to transmit it, together with the updated Register of International Treaties and Other Agreements [Conventions and Protocols] in the Field of Environment, 53/ to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session in accordance with resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975;

52/ UNEP/GC.12/18.

53/ UNEP/GC/INFORMATION/11.

2. Further requests, the Executive Director, in co-operation with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as appropriate, to continue the collection and dissemination of information concerning international and national environmental law.

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12/15. Reform of the Information Service

The Governing Council,

Recalling recommendation 97 of the Action Plan adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which stated inter alia that arrangements should be made:

"To establish an information programme designed to create the awareness which individuals should have of environmental issues and to associate the public with environmental management and control. This programme will use traditional and contemporary mass media of communication, taking distinctive national conditions into account. In addition, the programme must provide means of stimulating active participation by the citizens and of eliciting interest and contributions from non-governmental organizations for the preservation and development of the environment", 54/

Considering the needs and objectives with regard to public information as laid down in the pertinent chapters of the system-wide medium-term environment programme, 55/

Noting with appreciation that the Executive Director, in complying with the recommendations contained in Governing Council decision 11/7, part three, sections C and D, consulted several experts specializing in the field of information and communications technologies,

Taking note of the efforts developed by the Executive Director to propose new arrangements for Mazingira magazine,

Welcoming the consultants' report and their analysis and recommendations as well as the Executive Director's report 56/ on the reform of the Information Service, particularly in the light of the pertinent Governing Council decisions,

1. Agrees to the concept that in the implementation of the reform of the Information Service, a step-by-step gradual approach is most convenient. In this context the priorities to be followed are:

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

55/ UNEP/GC.10/7 and Corr.1.

56/ UNEP/GC.12/6 and Add.1.

(a) Identification of information needs, in particular those of the developing countries, on a regional and subregional basis, and development of such regional and subregional networks of environment information as are necessary, using effectively the existing services and structures or setting up new ones within available financial resources and meeting different local needs;

(b) Streamlining of the publications programme along the lines suggested by the Executive Director in his report; 57/

(c) Identification of non-traditional forms of information;

(d) Intensification of the use by the United Nations Environment Programme of United Nations Information Centres and services, particularly for the dissemination of environmental information in the various regions;

(e) Co-operation with non-governmental organizations;

(f) Establishment of the environmental information training fellowships in co-operation with other relevant United Nations training programmes, and of a journalistic attachment programme, as recommended by the consultants;

2. Welcomes the Executive Director's support for the recommendations of the consultants with regard to the streamlining of the publications programme, and requests him to ensure that the Environment Programme targets its five categories of publications and all other information material to the relevant audience. A careful analysis of the costs and benefits is mandatory, and they should be tailored to meet the Programme's overall information policies and objectives;

3. Requests the Executive Director to submit to it periodic reports on the effects of the different information activities assessed by means of readership surveys and periodic cost-benefit analysis;

4. Also requests the Executive Director, in order to reduce production costs, to ensure that in-house printing capacity is fully used and advantage is taken of printing facilities in developing countries whenever appropriate;

5. Considers that at this stage a regular flagship publication is not a matter of priority;

6. Agrees therefore to the publication of a regular newsletter, focusing on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme, as a replacement for UNI TERRA and Report to Governments. It should include, in particular, information on the results and implications of the activities of the Programme and on national experience in combating environmental problems, and a section on environmental events, and, with the exception of the list of Fund projects, should be designed to meet the inter-sessional information requirements of Governments;

7. Decides that concise information on newly approved Fund projects, evaluation of important closed projects and in-depth evaluation of selected projects should be distributed to Governments twice a year as inter-sessional documentation;

8. Decides to discontinue support for Mazingira at the expiration of the present contract and to apply the resources thus released to regional information activities and the development of non-traditional forms of information;

9. Decides to consider further the adjudication of the environmental media awards when the financial situation of the Fund so permits;

10. Requests the Executive Director to report periodically to the Governing Council on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

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12/16. Supporting measures

A. Environmental education and training

The Governing Council

1. Notes the progress made in the implementation of decisions 9/20 of 26 May 1981 and 11/7 of 24 May 1983, part three, sections A and B; 58/

2. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the programme of action for environmental education and training in Africa; 59/

3. Endorses the recommendations with regard to a proposed programme of action for environmental education and training in Africa; 60/

4. Appeals to the Governments of the region to co-operate with the Executive Director in the formulation of a programme of action;

5. Requests the Executive Director to continue his efforts to formulate, in co-operation with the Governments of the region and with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, a programme of action for environmental education and training in Africa, and to report on progress achieved to the Governing Council at its next session.

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58/ UNEP/GC.12/12, paras. 2, 3, 32 and 33.

59/ UNEP/GC.12/13.

60/ UNEP/GC.12/13, annex.

B. Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 10/25 B of 31 May 1982 and 11/7 of 25 May 1983, part three, section B,

Bearing in mind the results of the Meeting of High-level Experts Designated by Governments to Review Regional Environmental Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean and the third Regional Intergovernmental Meeting on Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recognizing that the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean has proved to be an adequate and viable alternative, through its organizational structure, for satisfying environmental training requirements in accordance with the training and environmental education needs in the countries of the region,

Considering the need to seek adequate resources which will make it possible to strengthen the Network in coming years,

Considering that the mechanism of the Network and its organizational structure can contribute to the horizontal co-operation effort with other regions that are undertaking similar programmes,

1. Recommends to the Governments of the countries of the region that they agree as soon as possible on a general programme for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean which reflects the agreements reached on this subject and the undertaking on the part of the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean concerning the administrative and financial aspects which, in accordance with their abilities, they might assume responsibility for in order to strengthen and consolidate the programme of the Environmental Training Network;
2. Recommends to the Governments of the countries of the region that they study a regional co-ordination project concerning the Network for the possible purpose of attaining the signature of an instrument on the subject which, duly submitted to the United Nations Environment Programme, would guarantee the financing of the Network's programme up to 1987; in this financing, the contributions in local currency and in kind from the countries will constitute the regional counterpart under the project to be submitted to the Programme;
3. Recommends that the activities which various agencies have been carrying out for environmental training be co-ordinated so as to avoid duplication of effort and dispersal of the scarce financial resources available for the area;
4. Requests the Executive Director to explore the possibilities of co-operation among the regions that are undertaking an effort similar to the Network;
5. Urges the Executive Director to take the necessary measures for a continuation of budgetary support to the Network within available resources;

6. Encourages the Executive Director to continue collaborating in research in alternative sources of finance for support to the Network.

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C. Regional and technical co-operation

The Governing Council

Notes the progress made in the implementation of Governing Council decisions 11/7, part eight, sections A, B, C and D, 11/8 and 11/9, all of 24 May 1983. 61/

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12/17. Regional activities

A. Programme of action on the African environment and African subregional environment groups

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and the Declaration and Action Plan adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, 62/ which inter alia stress the need for regional co-operation and actions in the field of environment,

Bearing in mind the relevant recommendations of the Lagos Plan of Action 63/ of the Organization of African Unity on environment and development,

Aware that the African region and subregions have unique and priority environmental problems which need to be identified, studied, articulated, translated into specific action plans and supported at the local, regional and international levels,

Further recalling Governing Council decision 11/7 of 23 May 1983, in particular part eight, section A, thereof on regional programmes for Africa, in which the Executive Director is requested to render, through the Regional Office for Africa, secretariat services for a conference to be convened by the Governments of the region, in co-operation with regional organizations and institutions,

61/ UNEP/GC.12/12, paras. 45-56.

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

63/ See A/S-11/14, annex I.

Noting that a meeting of the African subregional environment groups has already been held at Lusaka from 10 to 13 April 1984 with the assistance of the Regional Office for Africa,

Considering that the results of the meeting and the draft programme of action on the African environment prepared by it are due to be presented for consideration and adoption at an African environmental conference to be convened in the near future,

1. Expresses appreciation at the assistance so far extended by the Executive Director to the African region in order to enable it to formulate the draft programme of action on the African environment;

2. Welcomes the efforts and outcome of the meeting of the African subregional environment groups, in particular its draft programme of action on the African environment;

3. Commends the efforts of the secretariat in organizing the subregional groups, which can prove to be an important mechanism for co-operation in the field of the environment between and among States in the region as well as with the Environment Section of the Economic Commission for Africa and its five subregional Multinational Programming and Operational Centres;

4. Requests the Executive Director to continue his efforts to assist the African region in convening an African environmental conference to be attended at ministerial level to approve a regional plan of action on the African environment.

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B. Strengthening of the Regional Office for Africa

The Governing Council,

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

Further recalling its decisions 8/16 A of 29 April 1980, 9/21 of 26 May 1981, 10/2 of 31 May 1982, section II, and 11/7 of 24 May 1983, part eight, section A,

Further noting that the African subregional environment groups met at Lusaka from 10 to 13 April 1984 and drew up a draft programme of action,

Considering the large number of countries making up the African continent, and the diversity and scope of their environmental problems,

1. Recognizes the importance of the establishment of the African subregional environment groups as a basis for promoting regional co-operation in the field of the environment;

2. Reconfirms paragraph 4 of its decision 6/10 of 24 May 1978, by which it invited the national environmental agencies and national development planning agencies of the countries concerned to promote, by all means available, methods and methodologies of relating environmental dimensions within the process of preparing

national plans and technical assistance programmes supported by the United Nations Development Programme;

3. Requests the Executive Director, within available resources, to strengthen the Regional Office for Africa in terms of human and financial resources taking into account the establishment of the subregional focal points;

4. Requests the Executive Director to make a study on the establishment of subregional offices in the future, considering the offer of Morocco to host the subregional office for North Africa;

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

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C. Regional activities in Asia and the Pacific

The Governing Council,

Recalling Governing Council decisions 11/7 of 24 May 1983, part three, section A, and part eight, sections B and C, and 11/8 of 24 May 1983, its previous decisions 10/2, 10/4, 10/6 and 10/26 of 31 May 1982, and resolution I adopted by the Council at its session of a special character, regarding the planning and implementation of environmental programmes in response to regional and subregional needs,

Noting the progress achieved so far in implementing the relevant sections of decisions 11/7 and 11/8,

Recalling the recent seventh meeting of the Experts Group on the Environment of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, which met at Kuala Lumpur in April 1984,

Recalling further the third meeting of the Co-ordinating Body for the Seas of East Asia, held at Kuala Lumpur in April 1984, and the first meeting of national focal points to develop an action plan for the protection and management of the South Asian Seas region, held at Bangkok in March 1984,

Noting further the firm commitment of the countries of the region to incorporate environmental considerations into their developmental activities,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue to accord high priority within available resources to the regional and subregional environmental programmes of the Asia and Pacific region, and to provide financial support and other assistance commensurate with the regions's needs, underscoring the urgency of such programmes;

2. Also requests the Executive Director to intensify his efforts to seek support and funds from bilateral and multilateral sources, traditional as well as new, for priority activities in the subregional and regional programmes of the Governments of the region identified through the clearing-house mechanism;

3. Urges the Executive Director to apply his discretionary authority to increase funds for the high-priority regional seas programme, and to provide adequate financial support to this programme so that ongoing activities may be sustained and the preparatory activities for a new South Asian Seas Action Plan may be completed.

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D. Regional and subregional programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 9/21 of 26 May 1981, 10/2 of 31 May 1982, 10/3 of 28 May 1982, 10/19 and 10/25 B of 31 May 1982 and 11/9 of 24 May 1983,

Bearing in mind the results of the Meeting of High-level Experts Designated by Governments to Review Regional Environmental Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean and the third Regional Intergovernmental Meeting on Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recognizing that the international economic crisis is adversely affecting the economy of Latin America and the Caribbean and has a direct impact on the conduct of national environmental programmes,

Considering the need to explore various alternatives to complement, with the region's own resources, the resources available for the implementation of regional and subregional environment co-operation programmes,

Recognizing also that substantial progress has been made in Latin America and the Caribbean in strengthening national institutions and international co-ordination machinery in the field of the environment, thus promoting continuation of the process of effective co-operation,

Bearing in mind the interest shown by the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean in the regional seas programmes for the greater Caribbean and the south-east Pacific,

Recognizing the valuable co-operation the United Nations Environment Programme has been extending to strengthening regional co-operation efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean,

1. Expresses its thanks to the Government of Peru for convening the third Regional Intergovernmental Meeting on Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for convening the Meeting of High-level Experts Designated by Governments to Review Regional Environmental Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean at Lima from 8 to 12 April 1984;

2. Urges the Governments of the region to continue strengthening their mechanisms and modalities for regional co-operation, promoting greater exchange of experience and participating in meetings convened to that end;

3. Requests the Executive Director to attach high priority to the regional and subregional programmes of common interest and, within available resources, to provide financial support for the strengthening of regional activities;

4. Reiterates to the Executive Director the provision of paragraph 2 (d) of decision 11/9 with a view to increasing the inputs of the United Nations Environment Programme to the region and effectively incorporating within available resources the regional environmental programmes of common interest in the budget of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1986-1987 to be approved by the Governing Council at its thirteenth session;

5. Calls the attention of the Executive Director to paragraph 3 of resolution 1 of the Meeting of High-level Experts, by which he is requested to compile information on innovative means of financing and to prepare as soon as possible, in co-ordination with the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other agencies, a study analysing alternatives for the utilization of national currencies and contributions in kind to support the execution of the regional environmental programmes of common interest; these alternatives should be regarded as additional support, and not as a substitute for the funds the Programme should allocate to support the execution of the regional and subregional environmental programmes;

6. Urges Governments and international organizations to intensify their efforts to continue supporting the following ongoing programmes co-ordinated by the Programme:

(a) The Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment;

(b) The Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean;

(c) The Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-east Pacific;

7. Reiterates the provisions of decision 11/9 and requests the Executive Director to support in the biennium 1984-1985 the conduct of activities to set in motion as soon as possible the regional environmental programmes of common interest identified as such at the regional intergovernmental meetings held at Mexico City (1982), Buenos Aires (1983) and Lima (1984).

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12/18. Financial framework for the Fund programme

The Governing Council

1. Authorizes the Executive Director to draw up a programme for Fund activities in the biennium 1986-1987 which would result in an estimated level of project expenditures of approximately \$50 million;

2. Requests the Executive Director to seek increased contributions to enable him to implement projects at this level of expenditure;

3. Also requests the Executive Director to present the 1986-1987 programme at the thirteenth session of the Governing Council in such a way as to facilitate the consideration and selection of programme priorities to promote the optimum allocation of available resources.

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12/19. Administrative and financial matters

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on administrative and financial matters 64/ and related documents, 65/

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Executive Director for his efforts to limit the programme and programme support costs budget to within 33 per cent of contributions received in 1983;

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue to attempt to limit the programme and programme support costs budget to within 33 per cent of estimated contributions in 1984;

3. Confirms the appropriation of \$26,020,000 for the programme and programme support costs for the biennium 1984-1985;

4. Approves the reclassification of one Programme Officer post in the Liaison and Regional Representation programme from P-2 to P-3 and one Senior Programme Officer post in the Environmental Programmes programme from P-4 to P-5 under the programme and programme support costs budget for 1984-1985;

5. Notes that the Executive Director proposes to absorb the costs resulting from the reclassification of the two posts within the approved sum for programme and programme support costs in 1984-1985;

6. Urges the Executive Director to continue his efforts to attain geographical balance in the distribution of posts within the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme, especially by recruiting personnel from the non- and under-represented countries;

7. Approves the Executive Director's recommendation to set the financial reserve of the Environment Fund at \$6.86 million in 1984 and \$7.35 million in 1985, and requests the Executive Director to report back to the Governing Council at its thirteenth session on the usefulness or otherwise of an increased reserve in reducing undercommitment of funds;

64/ UNEP/GC.12/7 and Corr.1.

65/ UNEP/GC.12/2, chaps. V and VI, and annexes II and V, UNEP/GC.12/17, UNEP/GC.12/L.4 and UNEP/GC.12/L.6.

8. Takes note of the financial report and accounts (unaudited) of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1982-1983 ended 31 December 1983. 66/

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Other decision

Provisional agenda, date and place of the thirteenth session
of the Governing Council

At the 15th plenary meeting of the session, on 28 May, the Council decided that, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules of procedure, and bearing in mind decision 11/2 on the periodicity and duration of Council sessions, its thirteenth session would be held at Nairobi from 13 to 22 May 1985, to be preceded by informal consultations among heads of delegation in the morning of 13 May 1985. The Council approved the following provisional agenda for the session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Agenda and organization of the work of the session.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Executive Director's reports.
5. State-of-the-environment report 1985.
6. Co-ordination questions.
7. Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.
8. Programme matters.
9. Administrative and budgetary matters.
10. The Environment Fund.
11. Provisional agenda, date and place of the fourteenth session of the Governing Council.
12. Other business.
13. Adoption of the report.
14. Closure of the session.

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