

tion and computer applications to surface and groundwater development and management.

Innovative large-scale projects were developed in the Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau, financed by the United Nations Capital Development Fund and UNDP, focusing on the socio-economic aspects of water supply and sanitation in rural areas, with special emphasis on community participation and the role of women. The goal of a project in southern Africa was the integrated and environmentally sound management of the area's water resources to allow sustainable development. Projects in China, Pakistan and the Lake Chad basin (involving Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria) also had a strong environmental component.

Interregional workshops were organized on the role of women in environmentally sound and sustainable development (Beijing, China, 9-15 September) and on the testing of training modules on women, water supply and sanitation (Bangkok, Thailand, 21-25 September).

#### International Conference on Water and the Environment

The International Conference on Water and the Environment (Dublin, Ireland, 26-31 January 1992) adopted, at its closing session, the Dublin Statement on Water and Sustainable Development. In March,(6) the Conference's Secretary-General submitted the Statement and the report of the Conference to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (see PART THREE, Chapter VIII). The Dublin Conference, attended by 500 participants, including government-designated experts from 100 countries and representatives of 80 international, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, was convened by the World Meteorological Organization on behalf of the organizations of the United Nations represented in the ACC Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources.

The Dublin Statement noted that scarcity and misuse of fresh water posed a serious and growing threat to sustainable development and protection of the environment. Human health and welfare, food security, industrial development and the ecosystems on which they depended were all at risk unless water and land resources were managed more effectively. The Statement listed four guiding principles on which action recommended in the Conference report was based: fresh water was a finite and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development and the environment; water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policy makers; women played a central part in providing, managing and safeguarding

water; and water had an economic value and should be recognized as an economic good.

Based on those principles, the Statement proposed an action agenda covering alleviation of poverty and disease, protection against natural disasters, water conservation and reuse, sustainable urban development, agricultural production and rural water supply, protecting aquatic ecosystems and resolving water conflicts. It also addressed the need for an enabling environment to implement the action agenda and the need for follow-up mechanisms.

The report of the Conference contained further recommendations dealing with integrated water resources development and management, water resources assessment and impacts of climate change on water resources, protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems, water and sustainable urban development and drinking-water supply and sanitation in the urban context, water for sustainable food production and rural development and drinking-water supply and sanitation in the rural context, mechanisms for implementation and coordination at international, national and local levels, and options for follow-up.

#### UN Conference on Environment and Development

Agenda 21, adopted in June 1992 by UNCED,(7) contained a chapter on the protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources.

The Conference proposed a number of programme areas: integrated water resources development and management; water resources assessment; protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems; drinking-water supply and sanitation; water and sustainable urban development; water for sustainable food production and rural development; and impacts of climate change on water resources. For each programme area, the Conference set a number of objectives and recommended activities to achieve them.

#### Inter-agency coordination

The ACC Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources (New York, 7-9 October 1992)(8) discussed strengthening coordination and cooperation in the field of water resources, including follow-up action on issues stemming from the Dublin Conference and UNCED.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December 1992, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee, the General Assembly adopted without vote resolution 47/193.