

## Chapter VIII

**Environment**

In 1994, a number of recommendations made in Agenda 21—a plan of action for the sustainable development of the Earth into the twenty-first century, adopted in 1992 by the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED)—had been implemented. The measures included the conclusion of negotiations for the elaboration of the International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa; the convening of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados, 25 April-6 May) (see PART THREE, Chapter I); and the work of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

The Commission on Sustainable Development, at its second session (New York, 16-27 May), welcomed the entry into force on 21 March of the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The United Nations Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks held its third (14-31 March) and fourth (15-26 August) sessions in 1994, both in New York, to promote the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks.

On 1 July, a Joint United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) Unit was established to deal with environmental aspects of emergencies.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), having noted the work done by UNEP for a legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for chemicals in international trade, in November, agreed that its secretariat should proceed with preparing a draft instrument on the operation of the procedure as part of the FAO/UNEP programme on the subject.

The General Assembly, in December, proclaimed 17 June the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (resolution 49/115); 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer (49/114); and 29 December, the date of the entry into force in 1993 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the In-

ternational Day for Biological Diversity (49/119). It also proclaimed 1998 the International Year of the Ocean (49/131).

**UNCED follow-up**

A number of important intergovernmental measures recommended in Agenda 21, adopted in 1992 by UNCED,<sup>(1)</sup> took place during 1994. They included the conclusion of negotiations for the elaboration of the International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa; the convening of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados, 25 April-6 May) (see PART THREE, Chapter I); and the work of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (New York, 14-31 March and 15-26 August). The results of and follow-up to those activities, together with ongoing work related to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>(2)</sup> which entered into force on 21 March 1994, and the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>(3)</sup> which entered into force in 1993,<sup>(4)</sup> were of direct relevance to the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly for a review and appraisal of the progress achieved since UNCED. The special session was called for by the Assembly in 1992,<sup>(5)</sup> to be held not later than 1997.

**UNDP activities.** In May,<sup>(6)</sup> the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) discussed the UNCED follow-up and UNDP's strategy for sustainable development. He stated that UNDP was conducting studies which would help better understand global needs and capacity-building.

In June,<sup>(7)</sup> the UNDP Executive Board took note of the Administrator's report.

**Commission on Sustainable Development action.** The Commission on Sustainable Development, at its second session (New York, 16-27 May),<sup>(8)</sup> welcomed the entry into force in 1994 of the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>(2)</sup> and the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>(3)</sup> which entered into

force in 1993,<sup>(4)</sup> as well as the adoption of the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (see PART THREE, Chapter I), and urged that follow-up action be taken. It supported the successful conclusion in June of the negotiations for the elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification (see below, under "Terrestrial ecosystems"), and called on all States to accelerate progress in the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (see below, under "Marine ecosystems") and to promote the successful conclusion of the Intergovernmental Conference on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (Washington, DC., 1995).

The Commission asked States and relevant intergovernmental organizations to submit, or continue to submit, annually, on a voluntary basis, information on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development<sup>(9)</sup>—which aimed to establish a new and equitable global partnership on environment and development through cooperation among States, key sectors of society and individuals—and other agreements and conferences related to UNCED. The Commission had before it an April report of the Secretary-General providing information on action taken to implement Agenda 21 received from 10 developing countries, three countries with economies in transition, 11 industrialized countries and two regional organizations.<sup>(10)</sup>

The Commission asked the Secretary-General to inform it of progress made by the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) towards coordination among United Nations bodies in implementing Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration and other UNCED-related agreements and conferences. It asked States to establish coordination machinery to promote sustainable development and called on the United Nations system, through the IACSD task managers, to coordinate its capacity-building activities and to develop joint programming.

Note by the Secretary-General. Pursuant to a 1992 General Assembly request,<sup>(11)</sup> the Secretary-General, in an October note,<sup>(12)</sup> stated that it seemed premature to submit recommendations on the format, scope and organizational aspects of a special session of the Assembly to review and appraise Agenda 21, to be held not later than 1997.

By decision 49/437 of 19 December, the General Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's note.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

The Second (Economic and Financial) Committee considered various issues regarding the en-

vironment and sustainable development during the forty-ninth (1994) session of the General Assembly and made a number of recommendations. By decisions 49/435 and 49/438, both adopted on 19 December, the Assembly took note of parts one<sup>(13)</sup> and two<sup>(14)</sup> of the Committee's report, respectively.

Also on 19 December, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 49/113 without vote.

#### **Dissemination of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development**

The General Assembly,

Reiterating that the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development contains fundamental principles for the achievement of sustainable development, based on a new and equitable global partnership, and reaffirming Agenda 21,

Conscious of the fact that dissemination of the principles contained in the Declaration will contribute to increasing public awareness of the need to take a balanced and integrated approach to development and environment questions,

Aware of the fact that dissemination of the principles contained in the Declaration can stimulate increased national and international efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries,

Taking into account its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, in particular its paragraph 4 (a), in which it recommended that the Commission on Sustainable Development promote the incorporation of the principles of the Declaration in the implementation of Agenda 21, and recalling paragraphs 32 and 42 of chapter I of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its first session,

Recalling its resolution 48/190 of 21 December 1993 and noting that the ministers and other participants at the high-level meetings of the first and second sessions of the Commission emphasized the need to promote broad dissemination of the principles of the Declaration at all levels with a view to promoting public awareness regarding sustainable development,

1. Urges all Governments to promote widespread dissemination at all levels of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Declaration is widely disseminated by the competent organs and bodies of the United Nations system and to continue to ensure that its principles are incorporated in their programmes and processes, in accordance with paragraphs 32 and 42 of chapter I of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its first session.

#### **General Assembly resolution 49/113**

**19 December 1994 Meeting 92 Adopted without vote**

Approved by Second Committee (A/49/729/Add.6) without vote, 23 November (meeting 29); draft by Algeria, for Group of 77 and China (A/C.2/49/L.17), orally revised; agenda item 89.

Meeting numbers. GA 49th session: 2nd Committee 21, 25, 28, 29; plenary 92.

### Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment programme

In accordance with Chapter 25 of Agenda 21, which called for the involvement of youth from all parts of the world in promoting environmental awareness and in carrying out Agenda 21, the United States, on 22 April, initiated the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment programme (GLOBE). GLOBE was a school-based international environmental science and education programme to help monitor the global environment. It aimed at enhancing the collective awareness of individuals concerning the environment, increasing scientific understanding of the Earth and helping students reach the highest standards in science and mathematics education.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, adopted **resolution 49/112** without vote.

Support for the **Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE)** programme

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the continuing deterioration of the global environment at all levels, due to the impact of constantly increasing human activity, remains a serious concern requiring further attention, including enhanced awareness and intensified action,

Recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it endorsed the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including Agenda 21,

Taking note, in particular, of chapter 25 of Agenda 21 entitled "Children and youth in sustainable development", chapter 36 entitled "Promoting education, public awareness and training", and chapter 40 entitled "Information for decision-making", which call for greater efforts to involve youth, promote public awareness and enhance the collection and exchange of environmental data in support of the pursuit of sustainable development,

Noting the recent entry into force of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the recent successful conclusion of negotiations on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, which require for their effective implementation much greater and more effective collection and exchange of relevant environmental data,

Recalling its resolution 48/192 of 21 December 1993 on strengthening international cooperation in the monitoring of global environmental problems,

Convinced of the need to inspire the youth of the world with enthusiasm for the conservation, preservation and protection of all aspects of the global environment and in the pursuit of sustainable development, and to provide encouragement and support for their participation in that effort,

1. Welcomes the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) programme initiated by the Government of the United States of America on 22 April 1994, which aims to enhance the collective awareness of individuals throughout the world concerning the environment, increase scientific understanding of the Earth and help all students reach the highest standards in science and mathematics education;

2. Also welcomes the willingness expressed by many Governments to participate in shaping and carrying out the GLOBE initiative;

3. Encourages Governments, organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to take part, as appropriate, in the development and implementation of the GLOBE initiative, with full regard for sovereign national rights and interests and within the respective mandates of the organs, organizations and programmes concerned, including in the pursuit of sustainable development;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that appropriate account is taken of the GLOBE initiative in the efforts of the United Nations system to support the implementation of Agenda 21, particularly in the coordinating functions of the Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development of the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

5. Requests that the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Commission on Sustainable Development, take full account of the GLOBE initiative, within the context of sustainable development, in reviewing and promoting the implementation of Agenda 21;

6. Invites Governments to communicate information to the Commission on Sustainable Development, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, on their participation in the GLOBE programme within the implementation of Agenda 21, especially with regard to its chapters 25, 36 and 40.

General Assembly resolution 49/112

19 December 1994 Meeting 92 Adopted without vote

Approved by Second Committee (A/49/729/Add.6) without vote, 1 December (meeting 31); 54-nation draft (A/C.2/49/L.10/Rev.1); agenda item 89. Sponsors: Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Cape Verde, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Micronesia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Zambia. Meeting numbers. GA 49th session: 2nd Committee 21, 25, 28-31; plenary 92.

### Coordination within the UN system

The Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD), established by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) in 1992,<sup>(2)</sup> held two meetings in 1994 (New York, 2-4 March and Geneva, 14-16 June).

Concerning the allocation and sharing of responsibilities within the United Nations system for the follow-up to UNCED, IACSD, in March,<sup>(15)</sup> agreed to focus on identifying specific areas for collaborative and joint actions relating to some of the themes to be considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development, namely consumption patterns, environmentally sound technology, trade and environment, human settlements, health, freshwater, toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes. IACSD agreed that the United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development should prepare a report on financing needs related to new initiatives to fill gaps and address problem areas, as well as new intersectoral activities. Also in March, the ACC Chairman informed IACSD that ACC had approved the establishment of the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas as a subsidiary body of IACSD. The Subcommittee met in Rome in April.<sup>(16)</sup>

At its June session,<sup>(17)</sup> IACSD began a review of its functioning and membership, additional financing, and reporting requirements, as requested by ACC in April.<sup>(18)</sup> The review was to be carried out in three phases leading to a full assessment of the response of the United Nations system to Agenda 21 for submission to ACC in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly in 1997. The scope, arrangements and timetable for the completion of the review were annexed to IACSD's report.

In September,<sup>(19)</sup> ACC decided that IACSD membership would be open to all interested organizations of the United Nations system and requested IACSD to complete its work relating to streamlining reporting requirements as soon as possible. It also asked IACSD to submit to ACC a policy statement for submission to the Commission at its third (1995) session on behalf of ACC.

The Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group (IAEG), established by UNEP to support the effective implementation of its mandate to be catalytic and foster collaboration, in line with Agenda 21's reaffirmation of UNEP's role in policy guidance and coordination, held its first meeting (Geneva, 31 October and 1 November). The Group examined its role and function and emphasized the need for a functional relationship with IACSD in order to avoid duplication and enrich the work of IACSD. It discussed a proposal for a strategic document to replace the system-wide medium-term environment programme (SWMTEP). It was believed that a strategic document would assist agencies in establishing their priorities and defending their positions to their Governing Bodies, and also provide a framework for environmental activities. IAEG also discussed the links between Earthwatch and Development Watch, preparation for UNEP's programming for 1996-1997 and the

role of UNEP partners (for further information on Earthwatch and Development Watch, see below, under "Environmental activities").

In a report to the UNEP Governing Council,<sup>(20)</sup> the UNEP Executive Director proposed the preparation of a strategy document, focusing on major environmental challenges. In an addendum,<sup>(21)</sup> she outlined developments relating to the establishment of IAEG and summarized the discussion at IAEG's first meeting.

### Cooperation between UNEP and Habitat

Cooperation between UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) increased to include worldwide joint operations in the Habitat Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP). As a follow-up to UNCED recommendations, SCP was to be used as a major programme for implementing various recommendations of Agenda 21 relating to human health, sustainable human settlements, drinking-water supply and sanitation and local authorities' initiatives in support of Agenda 21.

### REFERENCES

- (<sup>1</sup>)YUN 1992, p. 672. (<sup>2</sup>)Ibid., p. 681. (3)Ibid., p. 683. (<sup>4</sup>)YUN 1993, p. 810. (<sup>5</sup>)YUN 1992, p. 675, GA res. 47/190, 22 Dec. 1992. (<sup>6</sup>)DP/1994/11. (<sup>7</sup>)DP/1995/1 (dec. 94/18). (8)E/1994/33/Rev.1. (<sup>9</sup>)YUN 1992, p. 670. (<sup>10</sup>)E/CN.17/1994/9. (<sup>11</sup>)YUN 1992, p. 675, GA res. 47/190, 22 Dec. 1992. (<sup>12</sup>)A/49/463. (<sup>13</sup>)A/49/729. (<sup>14</sup>)A/49/729/Add.1. (<sup>15</sup>)ACC/1994/7. (<sup>16</sup>)ACC/1994/16. (<sup>17</sup>)ACC/1994/17 & Corr.1. (<sup>18</sup>)ACC/1994/10. (<sup>19</sup>)ACC/1994/26 & Corr.1. (<sup>20</sup>)UNEP/GC.18/36 & Corr.1. (<sup>21</sup>)UNEP/GC.18/36/Add.1.

## General aspects

### Women and environment

In 1994, UNEP's efforts regarding the role of women in environment and development included ensuring that gender considerations were integrated into all of its policies, programmes and activities; establishing targets to increase the number of women employed in UNEP at all Professional levels; and intensifying and expanding coordination and cooperation between UNEP and other organizations in the area of training in gender issues and sustainable development.<sup>(1)</sup> The UNEP Executive Director prepared proposals for the integration of women and environment into the process of sustainable development as the UNEP contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) (see PART THREE, Chapter XIII). She also took steps to enhance cooperation between UNEP and Habitat in integrating women into comprehensive programmes for sustainable development.

UNEP hosted a meeting of clergy women (Nairobi, Kenya, August) in order to intensify and expand environmental awareness and action to reach grassroots constituencies. In October, it hosted over 100 business women from East, Central and Southern Africa who participated in a discussion of "greening the trade".

## International conventions

### Climate change convention

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which opened for signature at UNCED in 1992,<sup>(2)</sup> entered into force on 21 March 1994, 90 days after receiving its fiftieth ratification. As at 31 December, the Convention had been ratified by 116 States.<sup>(3)</sup>

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, which continued to function in order to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held its ninth (7-18 February)<sup>(4)</sup> and tenth (22 August-2 September)<sup>(5)</sup> sessions, both in Geneva. The Conference was scheduled to take place in Berlin, Germany, from 28 March to 7 April 1995.

In February, the Committee considered the adequacy of commitments to control greenhouse gas emissions beyond the year 2000 and adopted decisions concerning the guidelines and methods for the first review of information communicated by each Party included in Annex I of the Convention. The Committee discussed matters related to commitments concerning the financial mechanism of the Convention and criteria for joint implementation.

In August and September, the Committee continued to consider matters taken up at its February session and discussed institutional matters related to the Conference of the Parties and of the subsidiary bodies, such as the designation of a permanent secretariat, arrangements for its functioning and financial rules. It also considered the organization of work and agenda for the first session of the Conference.

The UNEP Executive Director reported that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in November, completed its special report to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties.<sup>(6)</sup> Working Group I prepared an update on the radiative forcing of climate change; Working Group II submitted technical guidelines for assessing the impacts of potential climate change and of evaluating appropriate adaptations; and Working Group III prepared an evaluation of scenarios for future emissions of greenhouse gases. Working Group III organized a workshop on emission scenario (Fortaleza, Brazil, April). In the course of preparing its second assessment report, IPCC

organized a workshop (Fortaleza, 17-21 October) dealing with the issue of how to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, that level being achieved within a time-frame to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change; ensure that food production was not threatened; and enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner. At its tenth session (Nairobi, 10-12 November), IPCC accepted the special report, reviewed progress in preparing the second assessment report and approved its 1995 budget.

**Report of the Secretary-General.** In response to a 1992 General Assembly request,<sup>(7)</sup> the Secretary-General submitted in October 1994<sup>(8)</sup> a report describing action taken by States, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (see above) and the interim secretariat of the Convention. He described action taken by States to sign, or in the case of signatories to ratify, accede, accept or approve the Convention. The Secretary-General reviewed arrangements for the first session of the Conference of the Parties made by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee; and activities taken by the secretariat, including facilitation of technical cooperation.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, adopted **resolution 49/120** without vote.

#### Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/212 of 21 December 1990, 47/195 of 22 December 1992 and 48/189 of 21 December 1993,

Taking note of the reports of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change on its sixth to tenth sessions, as well as the report of the Secretary-General,

Reaffirming its deep appreciation for and acceptance of the generous offer of the Government of Germany to host the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at Berlin from 28 March to 7 April 1995,

1. Welcomes the entry into force, on 21 March 1994, of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, notes with satisfaction that a large number of States and one regional economic integration organization have taken action to ratify the Convention, and calls upon other States to take appropriate action to that end;

2. Urges the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change to complete fully, at its eleventh session, which is to be held in New York from 6 to 17 February 1995, its plan of preparatory work for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to provide, if possible, in the week preceding the eleventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, all necessary services to facilitate the adequate participation of all Member States in the consultation to be undertaken by the Chairman of the Committee during that week, as agreed by the Committee at its tenth session;

4. Requests the head of the interim secretariat to continue to promote cooperation and coordination with other competent entities, including those of the United Nations system, in support of the effective implementation of the Convention, aimed in particular at facilitating timely financial and technical assistance to developing country parties to enable them to comply with their commitments under the Convention;

5. Notes with appreciation previous contributions made and invites additional contributions to the extra-budgetary funds established under paragraphs 10 and 20 of resolution 45/212, and maintained in accordance with resolution 47/195, as a means of ensuring that developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, as well as small island developing States, are able to participate fully and effectively in the negotiating process and in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General, in the context of the arrangements within the current programme budget for the interim secretariat support for the Convention until 31 December 1995, to maintain the above-mentioned extrabudgetary funds;

7. Decides, in the same context, to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1994-1995 the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the Parties that the Conference may need to convene in 1995;

8. Decides to consider further the item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" at its fiftieth session, taking account of the final report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, as requested in paragraph 20 of resolution 47/195, and of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session, and requests the Secretary-General to report to it at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution and on any possible implications arising from the report of the Conference on its first session.

General Assembly resolution 49/120

19 December 1994 Meeting 92 Adopted without vote

Approved by Second Committee (A/49/729/Add.2) without vote, 23 November (meeting 29); draft by Algeria, for Group of 77 and China (A/C.2/49/L.9), orally revised; agenda item 89 (b).

Meeting numbers. GA 49th session: 2nd Committee 21, 29; plenary 92.

### Convention on Biological Diversity

As at 31 December,<sup>(3)</sup> the Convention on Biological Diversity, which opened for signature at UNCED in 1992<sup>(8)</sup> and entered into force in 1993,<sup>(10)</sup> had been ratified or acceded to by 108 States.

The Intergovernmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity held its second and final session (Nairobi, 20 June-1 July) to prepare for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. The Committee also dealt with scientific, technical, legal and financial mat-

ters, including a possible biosafety protocol, ownership of ex-situ genetic resources, farmers and indigenous groups' rights and a report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Meeting of Scientific Experts on Biological Diversity (Mexico, 11-15 April).

The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (Nassau, Bahamas, 28 November-9 December) chose UNEP to provide the permanent secretariat of the Convention. The Global Environmental Facility was selected to continue to serve as the interim financial mechanism to assist developing countries in implementing the Convention's provisions until the next Conference, which was scheduled for November 1995. The Conference adopted a statement to the Commission on Sustainable Development for submission at its third (1995) session and also adopted a three-year medium-term work programme, the budget for the secretariat, financial rules governing the Trust Fund for the Convention, and the rules of procedure for its future sessions. It called for a study on establishing a clearing-house mechanism for technical and scientific cooperation. The Conference recommended that the General Assembly designate 29 December, the date of entry into force of the Convention, as the International Day for Biological Diversity. That observance was proclaimed by the Assembly in resolution 49/119 (see below).

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, adopted resolution 49/117 without vote.

#### Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling also Agenda 21, particularly its chapter 15, on the conservation of biological diversity, and related chapters,

Deeply concerned by the continuing loss of the world's biological diversity, and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reiterating the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

1. Welcomes the early entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Nassau from 28 November to 9 December 1994;

2. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to make available the results of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention as a contribution to the work of the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

3. Calls upon those States which have not yet ratified the Convention to expedite their internal procedures of ratification, acceptance or approval;

4. Decides to consider the progress achieved in the implementation of the Convention at its fiftieth session under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", and invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention to report, through the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the results of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

General Assembly resolution 49/117

19 December 1994 Meeting 92 Adopted without vote

Approved by Second Committee (A/49/729/Add.6) without vote, 1 December (meeting 31); draft by Algeria, for Group of 77 and China (A/C.2/49/L.25/Rev.1), orally revised; agenda item 89.

Meeting numbers. GA 49th session: 2nd Committee 21, 25, 28-31; plenary 92.

On the same date, the Assembly, also on the recommendation of the Second Committee, adopted **resolution 49/119** without vote.

#### International Day for Biological Diversity

The General Assembly

1. Welcomes the recommendation of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Nassau from 28 November to 9 December 1994, to designate 29 December International Day for Biological Diversity;

2. Proclaims 29 December, the date of the entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity, International Day for Biological Diversity;

3. Requests the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take all steps necessary to ensure the successful observance of International Day for Biological Diversity.

General Assembly resolution 49/119

19 December 1994 Meeting 92 Adopted without vote

Approved by Second Committee (A/49/729/Add.6) without vote, 13 December (meeting 34); draft by Algeria, for Group of 77 and China (A/C.2/49/L.77); agenda item 89.

Meeting numbers. GA 49th session: 2nd Committee 21, 34; plenary 92.

#### Montreal Protocol and Ozone Convention

The Parties to the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer,<sup>(11)</sup> at their sixth meeting (Nairobi, 3-7 October 1994), noted that the growth in chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) had slowed down as a result of measures taken by Parties and agreed on further steps toward phasing out ozone-depleting chemicals in the light of reports that ozone depletion was still on the increase. The Parties agreed that there was no need for any production of halons in 1995 in industrialized countries for essential uses and allowed only a small consumption of 11,000 tons for CFCs, primarily for medical and space shuttle use in 1996 and 1997. The meeting requested assessments to study the implications of more stringent control measures for hydrochloro-fluorocarbons (HCFCs) and methyl bromide and to report to its open-ended working group in 1995. The Parties emphasized the need for renewed and innovative efforts in information sharing, capacity-building and technology transfer to developing countries. At

year's end, there were 146 Parties to the Montreal Protocol.<sup>(3)</sup>

The UNDP Administrator stated that as at 31 December 1994, UNDP was assisting 31 countries in their efforts to phase out ozone-depleting substances (ODS) under the Protocol.<sup>(12)</sup> Also at year's end, the UNDP 1991-1994 cumulative work programme under the Protocol was \$79.6 million, comprising 283 projects that were expected to eliminate 8,521 tons of ODS per year by the end of 1996. The regional shares of the programme were: Africa and the Middle East, 16 per cent; Asia and the Pacific, 50 per cent; Latin America and the Caribbean, 31 per cent; and regional and global programmes, 3 per cent. The foams and refrigeration sectors accounted for almost four-fifths of the total programme.

As at 31 December 1994,<sup>(3)</sup> there were 148 States parties to the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer,<sup>(13)</sup> which had entered into force in 1988.<sup>(14)</sup> There was no Conference of the Parties to the Convention in 1994. The next meeting of the Parties was scheduled to take place in Vienna in 1995, the year of the Convention's tenth anniversary.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December 1994, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, adopted **resolution 49/114** without vote.

#### International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

The General Assembly,

Considering the urgent need to preserve the ozone layer, which filters sunlight and prevents the adverse effects of ultraviolet radiation reaching the Earth's surface, thereby preserving life on the planet,

Highlighting the importance of the implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, concluded at Montreal on 16 September 1987, and its subsequent amendments, and the relevant role played by the Executive Committee of its Multi-lateral Fund,

Recognizing the strong commitment shown by signatory States and States parties to the Montreal Protocol, as well as by various concerned non-governmental organizations,

1. Proclaims 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date in 1987 on which the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed, to be observed beginning in 1995;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps to ensure the successful observance of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer;

3. Invites all Member States to devote this special day to promotion, at the national level, of concrete activities in accordance with the objectives and goals of the Montreal Protocol and its amendments;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to make recommendations on ways and means by which the United

Nations system can, without prejudice to ongoing activities, raise and make available the necessary resources, with a view to cooperating with Member States on the organization and promotion of various activities with respect to the observance of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

General Assembly resolution 49/114  
19 December 1994 Meeting 92 Adopted without vote

Approved by Second Committee (A/49/729/Add.6) without vote, 23 November (meeting 29); draft by Algeria, for Group of 77 and China (A/C.2/49/L.18), orally revised; agenda item 89.  
Meeting numbers. GA 49th session: 2nd Committee 21, 25, 28, 29; plenary 92.

### Convention to Combat Desertification

(For 1994 action on the International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, see below, under "Terrestrial ecosystems".)

### Global Environment Facility

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established as a pilot programme in 1991<sup>(15)</sup> to assist in protecting the global environment. In 1992,<sup>(16)</sup> participants agreed to a restructuring to ensure a transparent and democratic governance, promote universality in its participation and provide for full cooperation in its implementation among UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank. At a GEF Participants Meeting (Geneva, 14-16 March), participating States accepted the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF II) and committed \$2 billion to fund GEF II from June 1994 to June 1997. The Instrument set forth the principles for cooperation among the three implementing agencies subject to approval by their respective governing bodies. The GEF Council of Governments met in July (Washington, D.C.) to constitute itself, appoint officers, adopt a proposed work statement and draft rules of procedure. It also met in November to initiate its work programme.

**UNDP action.** On 6 May,<sup>(17)</sup> the UNDP Administrator transmitted to the Executive Board the Instrument, which the Board adopted on 13 May<sup>(18)</sup> as the basis for UNDP participation as an implementing agency of GEF.

In a later report,<sup>(12)</sup> the Administrator stated that UNDP work in GEF focused on mitigating climate change; conserving biodiversity; protecting international waters; and protecting the ozone layer (and land degradation as it pertained to the last two areas). As at 31 December, the pilot-phase portfolio in GEF consisted of 55 technical cooperation projects and 28 pre-investment feasibility studies. The UNDP pilot phase allocation totalled \$278 million, with pilot-phase project disbursements reaching \$92.3 million during the year.

**UNEP action.** The UNEP Executive Director, by a note of 21 April,<sup>(19)</sup> transmitted the Instrument to the UNEP Governing Council for adoption at its fourth special session (Nairobi, 18 June).<sup>(20)</sup> The Council's decision to adopt the Instrument<sup>(21)</sup> was annexed to its report on the special session.<sup>(20)</sup> **By decision 49/437** of 19 December, the General Assembly took note of that report.

In a later report,<sup>(22)</sup> the Executive Director described UNEP's role in GEF. She reviewed developments since the Council's fourth special session and outlined the UNEP GEF Strategy and Programme Focus.

**World Bank action.** On 7 July 1994, by resolution No. 487, the Board of Governors of the World Bank approved the Instrument.

### REFERENCES

(<sup>1</sup>)UNEP/GC.18/11. (<sup>2</sup>)YUN 1992, p. 681. (3)Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 31 December 1994 (ST/LEG/SER.E/13), Sales No. E.95.V.5. (<sup>4</sup>)A/AC.237/55. (<sup>5</sup>)A/AC.237/76 & Corr.1. (<sup>6</sup>)UNEP/GC.18/12. (<sup>7</sup>)YUN 1992, p. 682, GA res. 47/195, 22 Dec. 1992. (<sup>8</sup>)A/49/485. (<sup>9</sup>)YUN 1992, p. 683. (<sup>10</sup>)YUN 1993, p. 810. (<sup>11</sup>)YUN 1987, p. 686. (<sup>12</sup>)DP/1995/30/Add.1. (<sup>13</sup>)YUN 1985, p. 804. (<sup>14</sup>)YUN 1988, p. 810. (<sup>15</sup>)YUN 1991, p. 505. (<sup>16</sup>)YUN 1992, p. 684. (<sup>17</sup>)DP/1994/60. (<sup>18</sup>)DP/1995/1. (<sup>19</sup>)UNEP/GCSS.IV/2. (20)A/49/223-E/1994/105. (21)Ibid. (dec. SS.IV/1). (<sup>22</sup>)UNEP/GC.18/20.

## Environmental activities

### Environmental assessment

In response to the mandates of Agenda 21 and to the growing demands for environmental information that took into consideration development aspects, the UNEP Environment Assessment Programme was refocused to include the assessment and reporting functions of the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS), incorporating the former State of the Environment Unit, the data management functions of the Global Resource Information Database (GRID), the capacity-building and regional networking of the environment and natural resources information networks, and United Nations system-wide Earthwatch coordination.

Among the meetings held under the Programme were an expert consultation on the revised Programme for Pan European countries (Arendal, Norway, 2-4 May); an expert workshop on the GEMS/AIR Quality Assurance Programme Component (Munich, Germany, 6-9 September); a



regional consultation to assess the information and reporting needs and concerns in the Southern African Development Community (Harare, Zimbabwe, 9 September); an international expert workshop on global freshwater assessment (Geneva, 14-16 September) and a meeting of the Global Terrestrial Observing System working group on data management, access and harmonization (Maryland, United States, 2-4 November).

### Earthwatch

The first meeting of the inter-agency Earthwatch Working Party (Geneva, 1 and 2 June) redefined the mission of the United Nations system-wide Earthwatch as being to coordinate, harmonize and integrate assessment and reporting activities in order to provide environmental and socio-economic information for decision-making on sustainable development and for early warning of emerging problems requiring international action. The Working Party suggested that a Development Watch should be created, with which Earthwatch could interact closely. An expert group meeting (New York, 15 and 16 December) to explore the need for a Development Watch, stated that it should be established to assist all decision-makers, especially those at the national level, to understand the interaction among physical (environmental), social and economic phenomena and the policy options those interactions suggested. The group noted that Earthwatch was primarily a global information system, while Development Watch would be based on national information systems. Earthwatch would feed information into Development Watch and the two systems would be fully coordinated.

### Environmental indicators

The Executive Director reviewed progress made in the development and use of environmental indicators and presented a plan of action on indicator work.<sup>(1)</sup>

UNEP's indicator development included publishing *An Overview of Environmental Indicators: State-of-the-art and perspectives*; participating in developing criteria and indicators to guide management, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; collaborating in developing indicator-based methods to assess and map desertification, to evaluate projects and activities in desertification control and dryland rehabilitation, and for freshwater assessment; using indicators in environmental impact assessment and environmental and natural resource accounting and valuation; and participating in developing a menu of sustainable development indicators.

The plan of action comprised areas aimed at contributing to the United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable

Development-coordinated indicator work programme; developing indicators in selected areas within major UNEP programmes; promoting the use of indicators; and promoting indicator information exchange.

In another report,<sup>(2)</sup> the Executive Director discussed a programme of work on indicators for sustainable development, which included information excerpted from a report of the Secretary-General on information for decision-making,<sup>(3)</sup> prepared for the third (1995) session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

## Protection against harmful products and wastes

### Chemical safety

**Report of the Secretary-General.** In an April report to the Commission on Sustainable Development,<sup>(4)</sup> the Secretary-General reviewed progress made in the programme areas of Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 on the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products. The programme areas dealt with expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risks; harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals; information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks; establishing risk reduction programmes; strengthening national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals; and prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products.

The Secretary-General proposed that Governments ensure that chemicals were used and managed so as not to pose harm to human health or to the environment and to safeguard natural resources. He proposed that countries develop economic instruments such as taxes or levies to strengthen the management of chemicals and recommended efforts to ensure that the general public understood the meaning of labels and other ways of communicating risks and risk management measures. Other proposed action dealt with capacity-building, coordination and cooperation, development of national legislation and implementation of United Nations instruments, and effectiveness indicators.

The UNEP Executive Director, together with the Executive Heads of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization, convened the International Conference on Chemical Safety (ICCS) (Stockholm, Sweden, 25-29 April)<sup>(5)</sup> which resolved by consensus to establish an Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety. The purpose of the Forum was to develop strategies for implementing Chapter 19 of Agenda 21, dealing with the environmentally sound management of chemicals, and the six technical

programme areas identified by UNCED for intensive action. ICCS served as the first meeting of the Forum.

The UNEP Executive Director reviewed progress towards the development of a legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade, as carried out under the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the Implementation of the Amended London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade.<sup>(6)</sup> The London Guidelines, which provided a mechanism for Governments to share scientific, technical, economic and legal information and thereby increase chemical safety, were adopted by the UNEP Governing Council in 1987,<sup>(7)</sup> to replace the 1984 Provisional Notification Scheme for Banned and Severely Restricted Chemicals.<sup>(8)</sup> The Council adopted the amended Guidelines in 1989 to incorporate the PIC procedure.<sup>(9)</sup>

Meeting in April in Geneva, the Group considered the results of the work of its task force, which had reviewed experience in the implementation of the voluntary PIC procedure and had considered elements which might be included in the legally binding instrument. The Group recommended that a meeting of government-designated experts should review the progress in the implementation of the voluntary PIC procedure under the amended London Guidelines and the development of the instrument. In July, the Executive Director circulated to Governments the elements for the instrument identified by the Group, inviting their comments. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), having noted the work done by UNEP for the legally binding instrument, in November agreed that its secretariat should proceed with preparing a draft instrument on the operation of the PIC procedure as part of the FAO/UNEP programme on PIC. At a December meeting between UNEP and FAO, it was suggested that the UNEP Executive Director seek a mandate to start negotiations on the development of such an instrument from the Governing Council at its eighteenth (1995) session, with a view to its conclusion possibly by 1997.

### Management of hazardous waste

**Report of the Secretary-General.** In April,<sup>(10)</sup> the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development a report describing progress made in the programme areas of Chapter 20 of Agenda 21, which dealt with promoting the prevention and minimization of hazardous wastes. The programme areas for action concerned promoting the prevention and minimization of hazardous wastes; promoting and strengthening institutional capacities in hazard-

ous waste management; promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the management of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes; and preventing illegal international traffic in hazardous wastes. The Secretary-General recommended strengthening enforcement capabilities of regulations; associating the private sector more closely with the development and implementation of hazardous waste management policies; closing loopholes in existing conventions and agreements; and producing data and statistics on waste production. In the technical area, he proposed paying more attention to the production of hazardous wastes from sources other than industry, such as agriculture, hospitals and the domestic sector; developing cleaner technologies; strengthening the exchange of information on cleaner production and training; and examining soil and water contamination due to improper disposal of hazardous wastes, pesticides, fertilizers or air pollutants. Concerning economics, the Secretary-General stated that capital investments were needed for instituting cleaner production processes and that Governments should develop economic instruments to complement their hazardous waste legislation.

### Management of radioactive wastes

**Reports of the Secretary-General.** In May,<sup>(11)</sup> the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development a report on progress achieved in the programme area of Chapter 22 of Agenda 21, which dealt with ensuring that radioactive wastes were safely managed, transported, stored and disposed of, with a view to protecting human health and the environment. He noted that the past four decades had witnessed sharp accumulations of radioactive wastes generated by nuclear weapons programmes, electric power production and nuclear applications in medicine, and from radioisotopes.

While noting substantial progress in monitoring, collecting, transporting and storing radioactive wastes, the Secretary-General stated that much more remained to be done. He proposed keeping under review legislation regarding waste management and disposal and amending it to reflect a changing situation. He stressed the need for more research into and development of the reduction of the volume of certain radioactive wastes; to allocate funds to manage those wastes; and to develop further international standards for radioactive waste management.

In a later addendum,<sup>(12)</sup> the Secretary-General presented information on radioactive waste contained in the national reports of seven countries and the European Community.

## Environmental emergencies

On 1 July, a Joint UNEP/Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) Unit was established within DHA to deal with environmental aspects of emergencies.

In November, the Joint Unit undertook a major mission, to assist Russian authorities in assessing the consequences of an oil spill which began in August in the Komi Republic of the Russian Federation.

An Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies, drawn from national focal points, was set up jointly by UNEP and DHA to review the Unit's work and provide advice and guidance on future activities.

## Ecosystems

### Atmosphere

#### Global climate

Following the Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme (WCP) in 1993,<sup>(13)</sup> the six international organizations involved in implementing WCP—FAO, the International Council of Scientific Unions, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNEP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Maritime Organization (WMO)—embarked on the preparation of an integrated proposal for WCP for the next decade.

The first meeting of the Advisory Panel on the integrated proposal was convened by the Secretary-General of WMO (Geneva, 21 June). The Panel considered an outline of the proposal recommended by the Coordinating Committee for WCP in December 1993 and concluded that it was adequate for use in preparing the full text of the proposal. It also considered the first draft of some chapters of the proposal and made comments and recommendations on the contents of the proposal's chapters.

### Terrestrial ecosystems

#### Desertification and drought control

##### Convention to Combat Desertification

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, successfully completed its mandate of finalizing a Convention by June 1994.

The Committee, which was established by the General Assembly in 1992,<sup>(14)</sup> held its third (New York, 17-28 January), fourth (Geneva, 21-31 March) and fifth (Paris, 6-17 June) sessions in 1994. As requested by the Assembly in 1992,<sup>(14)</sup> the Secretary-General transmitted the Committee reports on those sessions by notes of 28 February,<sup>(15)</sup> 20 April<sup>(16)</sup> and 27 July.<sup>(17)</sup> By **decision** 49/437 of 19 December,

the Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's notes.

In January, the two working groups of the Committee focused on the draft negotiating text of the Convention. In addition, Working Group II of the Committee considered a possible format and elements of a regional implementation annex for Africa.<sup>(18)</sup> The rationale for supplementing the Convention with regional instruments was based on the fact that while desertification occurred in many regions of the world, its causes and remedies differed from one region to another. The instrument would provide a vehicle to adapt measures undertaken pursuant to the Convention to the specific conditions of the region. There was general agreement that, in order to reflect the priority to be given to Africa, the Committee should adopt the instrument for Africa along with the Convention in June 1994.

In March, Working Group I carried out a first reading of provisions relating to the Convention's objectives and financial resources and mechanisms. It held first and second readings on the scope of the Convention; its principles; and capacity-building, education and public awareness. First, second and third readings were conducted regarding the preamble; general provisions; and action programmes. In addition to holding first and second readings on a number of provisions, Working Group II discussed regional implementation annexes for Africa,<sup>(19)</sup> Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. In accordance with a 1993 Assembly resolution<sup>(20)</sup> in which it decided that the Committee should hold one session after the adoption of the Convention, to review the situation in the interim period pending its entry into force, the Committee proposed holding its sixth session from 9 to 20 January 1995.

On 17 June 1994, the Committee adopted the Convention and the regional implementation annexes for Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Northern Mediterranean.<sup>(21)</sup> By a resolution on urgent action for Africa, the Committee recommended the establishment, in the affected African countries, of partnership arrangements with the developed countries, intergovernmental regional economic organizations, NGOs and local populations. In another resolution, on interim arrangements for the period from the adoption of the Convention until the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly proposals for further sessions of the Committee and continued activities of the ad hoc secretariat until the permanent secretariat was set up by the Conference of the Parties.

Part I of the Convention contained an introduction (articles 1-3), and Part II general provisions (articles 4-8). Part III dealt with action programmes (articles 9-15); scientific and technical cooperation (articles 16-18); and supporting measures (articles

19-21); Part IV with institutions (articles 22-25); Part V with procedures (articles 26-32); and Part VI with final provisions (articles 33-40).

The Convention was opened for signature in Paris at a signing ceremony on 14 and 15 October. By the end of 1994, 95 countries and the European Union had signed it. The Convention was to enter into force 90 days after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification.

Report of the Secretary-General. In October,<sup>(22)</sup> the Secretary-General submitted a report in response to a 1993 General Assembly resolution<sup>(20)</sup> and the Committee's June 1994 request.

The Secretary-General stated that the main tasks of the Committee in the interim period would be to develop and adopt a work programme for that period; identify an organization to house the global mechanism for mobilizing and channelling financial resources and arrangements with the organization identified for its administrative operations, as well as decide on the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology to be established under the Convention; and keep under review the implementation of its resolution on urgent action for Africa. He discussed secretariat support and stated that in due course he would make detailed proposals regarding secretariat arrangements and their funding, covering the period up to and including the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

#### Financing

In December,<sup>(23)</sup> the Secretary-General proposed the redeployment of \$576,600 for activities related to the Convention from resources previously appropriated for apartheid.

On 23 December, the General Assembly, by resolution 49/219, section IV, decided to accept the redeployment of \$576,600 for the 1994-1995 biennium as proposed by the Secretary-General, subject to review and adjustment by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the Assembly.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, adopted resolution 49/234 without vote.

#### **Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/172 of 19 December 1989, 44/228 of 22 December 1989 and its other relevant resolutions and decisions, and the recommendations made in Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling also its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, by which it established the Intergovernmental Negotiat-

ing Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994,

Recalling further its resolution 48/191 of 21 December 1993, by which it urged the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to complete its negotiations by June 1994,

Noting that article 35 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, adopted in Paris on 17 June 1994, provides that secretariat functions will be carried out on an interim basis by the secretariat established by the General Assembly in resolution 47/188 until the completion of the first session of the Conference of the Parties; and also noting that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in paragraph 5 of its resolution 5/2, requested the Secretary-General to make proposals enabling the secretariat established pursuant to resolution 47/188 to continue its activities on an interim basis, until the permanent secretariat of the Convention is designated by the Conference of the Parties,

Acknowledging with appreciation the support provided for the operation of the secretariat during 1994 by the United Nations Development Programme, including the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office and the United Nations Capital Development Fund, and by the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions and bilateral contributors,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of resolution 48/191 and possible requirements for intergovernmental and secretariat work on the implementation of the Convention and its regional annexes, and having also considered Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 concerning urgent action for Africa, in the period up to and including the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Considering the Convention one of the main steps in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

1. Welcomes the adoption on 17 June 1994 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, and welcomes also the signing of the Convention in Paris on 14 and 15 October 1994 by a large number of States and one regional economic integration organization;

2. Urges States that have not yet signed the Convention to do so during the present session of the General Assembly and no later than 13 October 1995, in conformity with article 33 of the Convention, and urges States and organizations that have signed the Convention to proceed to its ratification so that it may enter into force as soon as possible;

3. Invites signatories of the Convention, in addition to the information provided at the time of signature, to continue to communicate to the interim secretariat of the Convention information on actions taken or envisaged for the implementation of the provisions of Inter-

governmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 on urgent action for Africa;

4. Decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall continue to function in order:

(a) To prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as specified in the Convention;

(b) To facilitate the implementation of the provisions of its resolution 5/1 on urgent action for Africa, through the exchange of information and the review of progress made thereon;

(c) To initiate measures relating to the identification of an organization to house the global mechanism to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources, including its operational modalities;

(d) To elaborate the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties;

(e) To consider other relevant issues, including measures to ensure the implementation of the Convention and its regional annexes;

5. Decides also, for this purpose, to convene, in addition to the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, which is to be held in New York for up to two weeks from 9 January 1995, a two-week session of the Committee at Nairobi, from 7 to 18 August 1995, and, pending the entry into force of the Convention, to convene further necessary sessions in 1996 and 1997, the venue and timing of which shall be recommended by the Committee;

6. Invites the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in this regard, to adopt and implement expeditiously a plan of work for the period leading to the first session of the Conference of the Parties, and requests the Secretary-General to make arrangements within the overall calendar of conferences for the Committee to hold its forthcoming sessions;

7. Requests all States, the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, relevant subregional and regional organizations and appropriate scientific and business communities, trade unions, relevant non-governmental organizations and other interested groups to take action for the prompt implementation of the Convention and its relevant regional annexes upon its entry into force and in this regard to respond effectively to the needs in the African, Asian and Latin American and Caribbean regions;

8. Urges all States, the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, relevant subregional and regional organizations and all other relevant actors to take actions and measures for the full and effective implementation of the provisions of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 on urgent action for Africa;

9. Decides that the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the interim secretariat shall continue to be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to the trust fund established pursuant to resolution 47/188 specifically for that purpose and administered by the head of the interim secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General, with the possibility of using the fund, as appropriate, to support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in

the work of the Committee and of carrying over resources contributed from one fiscal year to the other;

10. Notes the arrangements made by the Secretary-General and the contributions of the United Nations Development Programme, including the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, and of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Bank and other relevant international organizations active in the fields of desertification, drought and development to the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in pursuance of its mandate, and invites them to intensify and expand such support in the future;

11. Welcomes the proposal of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, following the adoption of the Convention, and in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 38.27 of Agenda 21, that the Programme support the implementation of the Convention world wide, with particular attention to Africa, and invites the Programme and the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to seek the necessary financial resources and other forms of support to be able to play that role more effectively;

12. Notes with appreciation the contributions made thus far to the trust fund, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations to continue to make voluntary contributions to the fund to support the interim secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the work of the Committee;

13. Also notes with appreciation the contributions made to the special voluntary fund established pursuant to resolution 47/188 to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the negotiating process, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations to continue to contribute generously to the fund so as to allow those countries to participate fully and effectively in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

14. Requests the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to submit progress reports on the Committee's work to the General Assembly, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other appropriate bodies of the United Nations;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations, international financial institutions, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions;

16. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution relative to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, under the item entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development".

**General Assembly resolution 49/234****23 December 1994 Meeting 95 Adopted without vote**

Approved by Second Committee (A/49/729/Add.4) without vote, 7 December (meeting 32); draft by Vice-Chairman (A/C.2/49/L.30), based on informal consultations on draft by Algeria, for Group of 77 and China (A/C.2/49/L.13); agenda item 89 (d).

Meeting numbers. GA 49th session: 2nd Committee 22, 32; plenary 95.

**World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought****GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 19 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, adopted **resolution 49/115** without vote.

**Observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the relevant provisions of chapter 12 of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Considering that the promotion of action to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, requires public awareness at local, national, subregional, regional and international levels,

Acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world and that joint action by the international community is needed to combat desertification and drought, particularly in Africa,

Recognizing the importance and necessity of international cooperation and partnership in combating desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, adopted in Paris on 17 June 1994 by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of such a convention,

Recognizing also the strong commitment of the international community to implementing the Convention and its regional implementation annexes,

1. Decides to proclaim 17 June World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, to be observed beginning in 1995;

2. Invites all States to devote the World Day to promoting public awareness through the publication and diffusion of documentaries and the organization of conferences, round-table meetings, seminars and expositions relating to international cooperation to combat desertification and the effects of drought and the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, and its regional implementation annexes;

3. Invites the Secretary-General to make recommendations on ways and means by which the Secretariat could assist Member States, upon their request, in organizing their national activities for the observance of the World Day;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to ensure the success of the observance by the United Nations of the World Day;

5. Invites all relevant United Nations bodies, within their mandates, and non-governmental organizations to

promote World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.

**General Assembly resolution 49/115****19 December 1994 Meeting 92 Adopted without vote**

Approved by Second Committee (A/49/729/Add.6) without vote, 29 November (meeting 30); draft by Algeria, for Group of 77 and China (A/C.2/49/L.19), orally revised; agenda item 89.

Meeting numbers. GA 49th session: 2nd Committee 21, 25, 28-30; plenary 92.

**Plan of Action to Combat Desertification**

In accordance with a 1984 General Assembly request,<sup>(24)</sup> the Executive Director of UNEP summarized progress achieved in 1993 and 1994<sup>(25)</sup> in implementing the 1977 Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (PACD).<sup>(26)</sup>

During the reporting period, UNEP continued to support Governments in developing and implementing national plans of action to combat desertification (NPACDs), which were launched in Bahrain, Chile, Mexico, Mongolia, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Evaluations were carried out on pilot village projects in Uganda and Zimbabwe, under the 1985 Cairo Programme for African Cooperation.<sup>(27)</sup> Some 1,025 participants from developing countries attended training courses related to desertification control and dryland management, organized by UNEP and other members of the Inter-agency Working Group on Desertification—the United Nations Sudano-Saharan Office (UNSO), WMO and the International Institute for Environment and Development. UNEP was active in desertification assessment and land management, soil resilience, assessment of degradation in cultivated soils, indicators of sustainability, land quality and community evaluation of project activities, appropriate technologies for sustainable land management and economic valuation of environment and natural resources. In the area of information, UNEP produced four issues of the Desertification Control Bulletin, a special issue of Our Planet on desertification and the World Map of Present-day Landscapes. UNEP participated actively in the negotiations for the Convention to Combat Desertification.

The Executive Director described the activities of UNSO, the agency responsible for implementing the 1977 Plan of Action in the Sudano-Saharan region on behalf of UNEP and under joint UNEP/UNDP sponsorship (see PART THREE, Chapter III). The UNSO programme focused on the negotiating process of the Convention to Combat Desertification; national plans of action; drought preparedness and mitigation; environmental information systems; and local-level natural resources management.

**Marine ecosystems****UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks**

**Report of the Secretary-General.** In response to a 1993 General Assembly request,<sup>(28)</sup> the

Secretary-General submitted a report on the work of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks,<sup>(29)</sup> including its first and second sessions, held in 1993,<sup>(30)</sup> and its third (14-31 March)<sup>(31)</sup> and fourth (15-26 August) sessions,<sup>(32)</sup> held in 1994 in New York.

The Conference, convened in accordance with a 1992 Assembly resolution,<sup>(33)</sup> was to take into account subregional, regional and global activities, with a view to promoting effective implementation of the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea<sup>(34)</sup> on straddling and highly migratory fish stocks. Drawing, *inter alia*, on scientific and technical studies by FAO, it was expected to identify and assess problems related to the conservation of such fish stocks; consider means of improving fisheries cooperation among States; and draw up recommendations.

The Secretary-General stated that detailed discussions relating to the conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks began at the second (July 1993) session. At that time, the Chairman prepared a negotiating text which became the basis for the further work of the Conference.<sup>(35)</sup>

In March, the Conference considered the negotiating text, which was divided into 11 sections and two annexes. At the end of the session, the Chairman issued a revised negotiating text,<sup>(36)</sup> which reflected progress towards closer agreement on a number of issues.

In August, the Conference examined the text section by section and held informal consultations on a matter raised by the Russian Federation on the question of fishing taking place in areas of the high seas surrounded by the exclusive economic zones of one or more coastal States, and a proposal by Norway dealing with enforcement measures in a regulatory area adjacent to the exclusive economic zone of a coastal State; no final conclusions were reached on those matters. The Chairman prepared a revised version of the text, entitled "Draft agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the consideration and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks".<sup>(37)</sup> The new text, which was in treaty form, consisted of a preamble, 13 parts and three annexes. It contained general provisions (articles 1 through 4) dealing with the use of terms and scope of the agreement; the objective of the agreement; its application; and the relationship between the agreement and the Convention on the Law of the Sea. Other parts dealt with conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks (articles 5-7); mechanisms for international cooperation concerning those fish stocks (articles 8-16); responsibilities of the flag

State (article 17); compliance and enforcement (articles 18-20); port State enforcement (article 21); requirements of developing States (article 22-24); forms of cooperation with developing States (articles 23-24); peaceful settlement of disputes (articles 25-31); non-participants (article 32); abuse of rights (article 33); non-parties to the agreement (article 34); reports on implementation of the agreement and a review conference (articles 35-36); and final provisions (articles 37-48). Annex 1 dealt with a minimum standard for collecting and sharing data; annex 2 contained suggested guidelines for the application of precautionary reference points in conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks; and annex 3 discussed an arbitration procedure for disputes between parties.

The Conference recommended to the Assembly that it provide for convening two further sessions in 1995, to be held from 27 March to 12 April and from 24 July to 4 August. The first session would consider substantive matters with a view to concluding negotiations. The second—final—session would deal with the concordance and harmonization of the text in all languages. It would be devoted to the Final Act of the Conference and the preparation of authentic texts of the agreement so that the Final Act and the agreement could be adopted at the end of that session.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, adopted **resolution 49/121** without vote.

#### United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/192 of 22 December 1992 and 48/194 of 21 December 1993, concerning the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made by the Conference at its third and fourth sessions in 1994,

Taking note of the recommendation of the Conference to the General Assembly that it provide for the convening of two further sessions in 1995 to enable the Conference to complete its work,

Convinced that the widest possible participation in the Conference is important to ensure its success,

1. Notes the progress made by the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks at its previous sessions;

2. Approves the convening in New York of two further sessions of the Conference, from 27 March to 12 April 1995 and from 24 July to 4 August 1995, in accordance with the recommendation of the Conference;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to provide services for those two sessions of the Conference, including facilities for holding two simultaneous meetings during the sessions;

4. Urges the Conference to complete its work before the fiftieth session of the General Assembly;

5. Renews its request to Governments and regional economic integration organizations to contribute to the voluntary fund established in accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 47/192 for the purpose of assisting developing countries, especially those most concerned by the subject-matter of the Conference, in particular the least developed among them, to participate fully and effectively in the Conference, and expresses its appreciation for the contributions to the fund made so far;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session the final report on the work of the Conference;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Sustainable use and conservation of the marine living resources of the high seas: report of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks".

#### General Assembly resolution 49/121

19 December 1994 Meeting 92 Adopted without vote

Approved by Second Committee (A/49/729/Add.3) without vote, 23 November (meeting 29); draft by Fiji (A/C.2/49/L.5); agenda item 89 (c).

Meeting numbers. GA 49th session: 2nd Committee 17, 29; plenary 92.

#### Fisheries by-catch and discards

The United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks,<sup>(29)</sup> in its 1994 draft agreement for implementing the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982<sup>(34)</sup> relating to the conservation and management of those fish stocks, stated that States should collect discard statistics.

The draft code of conduct for responsible fisheries, which was under preparation by FAO, called for progressively reducing and avoiding, as far as practicable, waste, by-catch and discards in fisheries. Regarding post-harvest practices and trade, the code provided for improving the utilization of by-catch to an extent consistent with responsible fisheries management practices.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December, the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, adopted **resolution 49/118** without vote.

#### Fisheries by-catch and discards and their impact on the sustainable use of the world's living marine resources

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that in relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, States are called upon to take into consideration, when establishing conservation and management measures for target fisheries, the effects on associated or dependent species, taking into account the best scientific evidence available,

Recalling that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, and the International Conference on Responsible Fishing, held at Cancún, Mexico, in May 1992, agreed

to promote the development and use of selective fishing gears and practices that minimized waste in the catch of target fish species and minimized by-catch of non-target fish and non-fish species,

Recalling also that the World Fisheries Congress, held at Athens in 1992, discussed various aspects of the fisheries discard issue,

Noting the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on fisheries by-catch and discards in the development of an international code of conduct for responsible fishing and the fact that the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks is considering provisions on fisheries by-catch and discards,

Recognizing the efforts that international organizations and members of the international community have made to reduce by-catch and discards in fishing operations and the need for continued international cooperation in this field,

Recognizing also that improvements in monitoring and assessing by-catch and discards and in by-catch reduction techniques continue to be necessary,

1. Notes the important role that fisheries play in contributing to a sustainable food supply and livelihood of present and future generations;

2. Believes that the issue of by-catch and discards in fishing operations warrants serious attention by the international community;

3. Also believes that a continued and effective response to the issue of addressing fisheries by-catch and discards is necessary so as to ensure the long-term and sustainable development of fisheries, taking into account the relevant principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

4. Invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to formulate fisheries by-catch and discard provisions in its international code of conduct for responsible fishing, taking into account work being done elsewhere;

5. Invites the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks to elaborate fisheries by-catch and discard provisions, taking into account work being done elsewhere;

6. Invites relevant subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to review, within their respective competences, the impact of fisheries by-catch and discards on the sustainable use of living marine resources, taking into account, as appropriate, the relevant deliberations of the Food and Agriculture Organization with respect to the international code of conduct for responsible fishing and the relevant deliberations of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;

7. Decides to consider this question at its fiftieth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

#### General Assembly resolution 49/118

19 December 1994 Meeting 92 Adopted without vote

Approved by Second Committee (A/49/729/Add.6) without vote, 13 December (meeting 34); 12-nation draft (A/C.2/49/L.50/Rev.1); agenda item 89.

Sponsors: Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Guyana, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, New Zealand, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States.

Meeting numbers. GA 49th session: 2nd Committee 21, 25, 28-32, 34; plenary 92.



### Drift-net fishing

As requested by the General Assembly in 1993,<sup>(38)</sup> the Secretary-General, in October 1994,<sup>(39)</sup> submitted a report on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas. The report described activities of States, NGOs and intergovernmental organizations and reviewed the extent of large-scale pelagic drift-net fisheries by regions of the world's oceans (Atlantic Ocean, Baltic Sea, Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean, Pacific Ocean).

The Assembly, by **decision** 49/436 of 19 December, took note of the Secretary-General's report and asked him to report on further developments.

### Marine pollution from land-based sources

In accordance with Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, UNEP convened a meeting (Montreal, Canada, 6-10 June)<sup>(40)</sup> of government-designated experts focusing on the 1985 Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution.<sup>(41)</sup> The meeting was in preparation for the Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, to be held in Washington, D.C., from 23 October to 3 November 1995. The experts reviewed activities since 1985 and discussed possible amendments to the Montreal Guidelines.

### Unauthorized fishing in zones of national impact

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, adopted resolution 49/116 without vote.

### Unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas

The General Assembly,

Inviting all members of the international community, particularly those with fishing interests, to strengthen their cooperation in the conservation and management of living marine resources in accordance with international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Recalling Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular its chapter 17, concerning the sustainable development and conservation of the marine living resources of areas under national jurisdiction,

Recalling also the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in particular chapter IV, concerning the sustainable development and conservation of the coastal and marine resources of areas under national jurisdiction,

Noting that, in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development the international community recog-

nized that the special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, should be given special priority,

Expressing deep concern at the detrimental impact of unauthorized fishing in zones under national jurisdiction, where the overwhelming proportion of the global fish catch is harvested, on the sustainable development of the world's fishery resources and on the food security and economies of many States, particularly the developing countries,

Reaffirming the rights and duties of coastal States to ensure proper conservation and management measures with respect to the living resources in zones under their national jurisdiction, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Taking note of recent discussions, at the international, regional and subregional levels, on fishery conservation and management measures, and on compliance with and enforcement thereof,

1. Calls upon States to take the responsibility, consistent with their obligations under international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, of taking measures to ensure that no fishing vessels entitled to fly their national flag fish in zones under the national jurisdiction of other States unless duly authorized by the competent authorities of the coastal State or States concerned; such authorized fishing operations should be carried out in accordance with the conditions set out in the authorization;

2. Calls upon development assistance organizations to make it a high priority to support efforts, including through financial and/or technical assistance, by the developing coastal States, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States, to improve the monitoring and control of fishing activities and the enforcement of fishing regulations;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, relevant intergovernmental organizations, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, regional and subregional fisheries bodies and relevant non-governmental organizations;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session a report on the steps taken and on problems encountered in the implementation of the present resolution, and thereafter as may be determined by the Assembly.

General Assembly resolution 49/116

19 December 1994 Meeting 92 Adopted without vote

Approved by Second Committee (A/49/729/Add.6) without vote, 7 December (meeting 32); 43-nation draft (A/C.2/49/L.20), orally revised; agenda item 89.

Sponsors: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Indonesia, Madagascar, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United States, Venezuela.

Meeting numbers. GA 49th session: 2nd Committee 21, 25, 28-32; plenary 92.

### International Year of the Ocean (1998)

In February,<sup>(42)</sup> the UNESCO Director-General transmitted to the Economic and Social Council the text of a resolution adopted by the 1993 UNESCO General Conference asking him to take action re-

quired to declare 1998 the international year of the ocean. The Director-General asked the Council to include the item in its agenda at the earliest date possible.

By decision 1994/220 of 19 April, the Council decided to include the item in the provisional agenda for its 1994 substantive session and, by resolution 1994/48 of 29 July, the Council requested the General Assembly, in 1994, to consider proclaiming 1998 international year of the ocean.

An October note by the Secretariat<sup>(43)</sup> stated that the Second Committee would consider in 1994 the question of proclaiming the international year.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, adopted resolution 49/131 without vote.

#### Question of declaring 1998 International Year of the Ocean

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/48 of 29 July 1994,

Proclaims 1998 International Year of the Ocean.

#### General Assembly resolution 49/131

19 December 1994 Meeting 92 Adopted without vote

Approved by Second Committee (A/49/726) without vote, 23 November (meeting 29); 110-nation draft (A/C.2/49/L.11); agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela.

Meeting numbers. GA 49th session: 2nd Committee 3-8, 17-19, 21, 22, 25, 28, 29; plenary 92.

#### Conservation of wildlife and protected areas

UNEP co-sponsored with the Government of India the First Meeting of the Tiger Range Countries (New Delhi, 3 and 4 March). The meeting established a Global Tiger Forum, comprised of members from countries who had tiger populations, to monitor the status of the tiger and safeguard its survival.

On 1 April, the UNEP Elephant and Rhinoceros Conservation Facility in Nairobi became operational. A UNEP Coordinating Meeting between the Elephant and Rhinoceros Conservation Facility, the World Conservation Union (IUCN)/Species Survival Commission/African and Asian Elephant and Rhino Specialist Groups, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the UNEP/CITES Secretariat

(Nairobi, 13 and 14 October) agreed on the roles and responsibilities of the UNEP Facility and of the IUCN Specialist Groups which were intended to strengthen elephant and rhinoceros conservation efforts.

The Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) (Nairobi, 7-11 June)<sup>(44)</sup> adopted resolutions concerning reports submitted by the parties; guidelines for the harmonization of future agreements; the Strategy for the Future Development of the Convention; arrangements for the Scientific Council; and financial and budgetary matters. It adopted recommendations concerning the conservation and management of cormorants in the African-Eurasian region; research on migration in small cetaceans; the conservation status of *Crex crex*; a proposed agreement on the houbara bustard (*Chlamydotus undulata*); concerted action for six Appendix I species of Sahelo-Saharan ungulates; and the role of NGOs in implementing the Convention.

The UNEP/CMS secretariat held the First Intergovernmental Session to discuss a proposal for an Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (Nairobi, 12-14 June). The session reviewed the first revision of the Agreement text, including annexes dealing with a map of the Agreement Area; description of the Agreement Area; waterbird families included in the Agreement Area; an Action Plan for Anatidae; and an Action Plan for Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills. A revised text of the Agreement was prepared.

UNEP convened the Ministerial Meeting for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (Lusaka, Zambia, 8 and 9 September). The meeting adopted a Final Act which contained the Lusaka Agreement and resolutions dealing with interim arrangements during the period between the opening of the Agreement for signature and its entry into force; the responsibility of African States to eliminate illegal trade in wild fauna and flora in Africa; and a tribute to the Government of Zambia. The Lusaka Agreement called for a task force to combat international syndicates smuggling wildlife out of the region. It opened for signature in Lusaka on 9 September 1994.

UNEP co-sponsored the Fourth IUCN/Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Africa Regional Working Session—African Heritage 2000 (Kruger National Park, South Africa, 11-17 October), which discussed the future of Africa's protected areas and focused on their economic importance.

The Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (Fort Lauderdale, United States, 7-18

November) was attended by 119 States parties, eight States non-parties, 46 international and 130 national organizations. The meeting reviewed 120 proposals from the parties for adding new species to the Convention. It took decisions regarding the future of several critically endangered species, such as the rhinoceros and the tiger, or those which may be endangered through trade, such as the swiftlet. The parties reviewed the status of national legislation for implementing the Convention, and recognized the need for better practical enforcement of the Convention.

#### REFERENCES

(<sup>1</sup>)UNEP/GC.18/8 & Corr.1. (<sup>2</sup>)UNEP/GC.18/8/Add.1. (<sup>3</sup>)E/CN.17/1995/18. (<sup>4</sup>)E/CN.17/1994/6. (<sup>5</sup>)E/CN.17/1994/19. (<sup>6</sup>)UNEP/GC.18/7. (<sup>7</sup>)YUN 1987, p. 697. (<sup>8</sup>)YUN 1984, p. 750. (<sup>9</sup>)A/44/25 (dec. 15/30). (<sup>10</sup>)E/CN.17/1994/7. (<sup>11</sup>)E/CN.17/1994/15. (<sup>12</sup>)E/CN.17/1994/15/Add.1. (<sup>13</sup>)YUN 1993, p. 813 and p. 1304. (<sup>14</sup>)YUN 1992, p. 686, GA res. 47/188, 22 Dec. 1992. (<sup>15</sup>)A/49/84. (<sup>16</sup>)A/49/84/Add.1. (<sup>17</sup>)A/49/84/Add.2. (<sup>18</sup>)A/AC.24/17. (<sup>19</sup>)A/AC.24/19. (<sup>20</sup>)YUN 1993, p. 814, GA res. 48/191, 21 Dec. 1993. (<sup>21</sup>)A/AC.24/27. (<sup>22</sup>)A/49/477. (<sup>23</sup>)A/C.5/49/44. (<sup>24</sup>)YUN 1984, p. 761, GA res. 39/168 B, 17 Dec. 1984. (<sup>25</sup>)UNEP/GC.18/3 & Corr.1. (<sup>26</sup>)YUN 1977, p. 509. (<sup>27</sup>)YUN 1985, p. 793. (<sup>28</sup>)YUN 1993, p. 817, GA res. 48/194, 21 Dec. 1993. (<sup>29</sup>)A/49/522. (<sup>30</sup>)YUN 1993, p. 817. (<sup>31</sup>)A/CONF.164/20. (<sup>32</sup>)A/CONF.164/25. (<sup>33</sup>)YUN 1992, p. 688, GA res. 47/192, 22 Dec. 1992. (<sup>34</sup>)YUN 1982, p. 178. (<sup>35</sup>)A/CONF.164/13. (<sup>36</sup>)A/CONF.164/13/Rev.1. (<sup>37</sup>)A/CONF.164/22. (<sup>38</sup>)YUN 1993, p. 817, GA dec. 48/445, 21 Dec. 1993. (<sup>39</sup>)A/49/469. (<sup>40</sup>)UNEP/MG/IG/1/5. (<sup>41</sup>)YUN 1985, p. 815. (<sup>42</sup>)E/1994/17. (<sup>43</sup>)A/C.2/49/7. (<sup>44</sup>)UNEP/CMS/Conf.4.16.

## UNEP finances

### Environment Fund

The Executive Director of UNEP reported that as at 31 December 1994, pledges to the Environment Fund for the year totalled \$65.07 million, of which \$63.06 million had been paid.<sup>(1)</sup> Total income of the Fund amounted to \$66.7 million.

### Trust funds

In 1994, there were 52 trust funds in operation as follows: 16 general trust funds, 22 general technical cooperation trust funds, 13 personnel technical cooperation trust funds and one general trust fund, for which UNEP played the role of treasurer only.<sup>(2)</sup>

### 1992-1993 accounts

In March 1994,<sup>(3)</sup> the Executive Director submitted to the General Assembly the financial report for the 1992-1993 biennium ended 31 December 1993, together with the accounts of the Environment Fund, including associated trust funds and other related accounts for the period. The report contained the report of the United

Nations Board of Auditors and audited financial statements for the Environment Fund and UNEP general trust and other funds.

By a July note,<sup>(4)</sup> the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly a summary of principal findings, conclusions and recommendations for remedial action of the Board of Auditors on the audit of the accounts for the financial period ended 31 December 1993. Issues concerning UNEP dealt with competitive bidding, the engagement of consultants and experts, and publications providing guidelines on environmental aspects.

The Assembly, by **resolution 49/216 A** of 23 December, accepted the financial report and audited financial statements of the Board of Auditors, as well as the Board's summary of principal findings and recommendations for remedial action.

#### REFERENCES

(<sup>1</sup>)UNEP/GC.18/14/Add.1. (<sup>2</sup>)UNEP/GC.18/13 & Corr.1,2. (<sup>3</sup>)A/49/5/Add.6. (<sup>4</sup>)A/49/214.

## Environmental aspects of political, economic and other issues

### Military conflicts and the environment

In response to a 1992 General Assembly request,<sup>(1)</sup> the Secretary-General, in June,<sup>(2)</sup> updated his 1992 report<sup>(3)</sup> on the environmental situation in Kuwait and other countries in the region resulting from the situation between Iraq and Kuwait.<sup>(4)</sup> The report, which also described United Nations initiatives to mitigate the adverse effects of the conflict and rehabilitate the environment, was based on surveys and assessments carried out under the Inter-agency Plan of Action for the Region Covered by the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME).

The Secretary-General described the effects of the conflict on the marine and coastal environment; the atmosphere; and terrestrial ecosystems, including hazardous wastes.

Concerning the socio-economic impact on the countries of the region, the Secretary-General stated that UNEP prepared a Consolidated Rehabilitation Programme, containing a proposed programme for the environmental rehabilitation of the region. The Programme incorporated project proposals covering environmental components, technical cooperation aspects, and the needs of the countries of the region with respect to oil clean-up, recovery and restoration. The Secretary-General noted that UNEP had made a commitment to assist ROMPE in raising funds for the rehabilitation programme, and was organizing a meeting with representatives of the oil and petroleum industry to explore cost-effective

means to address long-term effects of large oil spills, based on the experience in the Persian Gulf.

By **decision 1994/296** of 28 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretary-General's report.

### **Occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories**

The UNEP Executive Director reported that in cooperation with WHO, UNEP assisted in promoting environmental health and development in Palestine refugee camps through training environmental health officers and supporting subsequent training of camp sanitation officers.<sup>(5)</sup> The World Bank undertook a major desertification initiative which culminated in a programme which was presented to the regional parties in October 1994. Part of the programme was the Arava Valley Project, which was initiated by the interim secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification and was to be implemented by the Drylands Ecosystems and Desertification Control Programme of UNEP.

During the year, UNEP promised support to the Government of Oman in accelerating the process of establishing a regional centre for desalination research.

### **Military activities and the environment**

In May,<sup>(6)</sup> the Commission on Sustainable Development asked UNEP to consider arranging regional meetings, in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions and regional organizations, on the implementation of a 1993 Governing Council decision<sup>(7)</sup> and on designing and implementing national environmental plans for the military relating to hazardous waste management. The Commission recommended action to be taken at the national level.

### **The environment and economics**

The UNEP Executive Director reported on activities of the UNEP Action Programme on Environment and Economics, which focused on the valuation of environment and natural resources; environment and natural resource accounting; economic instruments; environmental impact assessment; and trade and the environment.<sup>(8)</sup> Activities in 1994 included an expert group meeting on the valuation of environment and natural resources (August); a workshop on environmental and natural resources accounting hosted by Slovakia; an expert group meeting on the use and application of economic instruments for environmental management and sustainable development (August); an expert meeting which produced an environmental impact assessment

framework for Africa (July); and in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank, a seminar on the environmental impact assessment of development projects (Amman, Jordan, May-June). Environmental impact assessment workshops were held in September and December (Kathmandu, Nepal), and roundtable meetings were convened on trade, environment and sustainable development (May) and on commercial banks and the environment (September).

UNEP launched a project on the use of economic instruments and their application to environmental policies in Brazil, China and the Republic of Korea, and initiated a project on environmental cost internalization in the commodity sector in the Czech Republic, Egypt and South Africa. It co-sponsored with UNCTAD country case-studies on trade and environment in Argentina and Chile, and undertook pilot case-studies on the application of techniques of integrated environmental and economic accounting in Indonesia, Colombia and Ghana and a project on the application of environmental accounting in Hungary. In addition, UNEP conducted a number of studies and research projects dealing with causes of environmental degradation as regards market and policy failures; impact of agricultural subsidies and other economic policy measures on agricultural development, natural resources management and desertification; economic values and the environment in developing countries; a framework for the application of economic instruments for environmental and sustainable development; and financing mechanisms for environmental investments and sustainable development.

### **Transfer of environmentally sound technology**

In April 1994, the UNEP/International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) was opened to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with specific attention paid to urban problems such as sewage, air pollution, solid waste, and noise and to the management of freshwater lake and reservoir basins.<sup>(9)</sup> UNEP/IETC and UNCHS/SCP embarked on projects in China and Poland to assist in identifying local needs for technology transfer.

### **Environmental law**

Pursuant to the Governing Council's 1993 adoption of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s,<sup>(7)</sup> UNEP assisted in and facilitated the development of a Global Programme of Action to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; the development of an international legally-binding instrument for the application of

the PIC procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade (see above, under "Environmental activities"); the application of a code of ethics on the international trade in chemicals; the development of a model framework law on environmental impact assessment; and the negotiation, development and adoption of the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (see above).

**Criminal law and the protection of the environment**

By resolution 1994/15 of 25 July 1994, dealing with the role of criminal law in protecting the environment, the Economic and Social Council

requested UNEP and other United Nations organizations and bodies to take its resolution into account in their deliberations concerning environmental protection, and to coordinate follow-up activities related to criminal law with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (see PART THREE, Chapter XII). Annexed to the resolution were recommendations for adoption by Member States, concerning the role of criminal law in protecting the environment.

REFERENCES

- (<sup>1</sup>)YUN 1992, p. 691, GA res. 47/151, 18 Dec. 1992.  
 (2)A/49/207-E/1994/92 & Corr.1. (<sup>3</sup>)YUN 1992, p. 690.  
 (4)YUN 1991, p. 167. (<sup>5</sup>)UNEP/GC.18/18 & Corr.1.  
 (6)E/1994/33/Rev.1. (7)YUN 1993, p. 820. (<sup>8</sup>)UNEP/GC.18/25.  
 (<sup>9</sup>)UNEP/GC.18/15.