Concerning the allocation and sharing of responsibilities within the United Nations system for the follow-up to UNCED, IACSD, in March,\(^1\) 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.\(^2\)

At its June session,\(^3\) IACSD began a review of its functioning and membership, additional financing, and reporting requirements, as requested by ACC in April.\(^4\) 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,\(^5\) 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,\(^6\) the UNEP Executive Director proposed the preparation of a strategy document, focusing on major environmental challenges. In an addendum,\(^7\) 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**


**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.\(^1\) 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.