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 extra-budgetary 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, the Convention on Biological Diversity, which opened for signature at UNCED in 1992 and entered into force in 1993, 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 matters, 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;