Note of Secretary-General. As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 50/115 [YUN 1995, p. 1071], the Secretary-General, in a November note [A/52/667], reported on the result of the review of the arrangements established in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 953] for providing the Conference of the Parties to the Convention with conference services and the Convention secretariat with administrative services. He stated that the review of administrative arrangements was expected to be finalized in 1998. Regarding conference services, the UN Secretariat intended to continue providing them to the Conference and its subsidiary bodies during the 1998-1999 biennium.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/52/629/Add.3], adopted resolution 52/199 without vote [agenda item 98 (c)].

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/115 of 20 December 1995 and 51/184 of 16 December 1996 and other relevant resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

Noting with satisfaction that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Japan for hosting the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing climate change,

Taking note of the statement of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the results of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties prepared in response to the invitation of the General Assembly as contained in paragraph 6 of resolution 51/184,

Noting with regret that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions 50/115 and 51/184 was not submitted on time,

1. Welcomes the convening of the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Kyoto, Japan, from 1 to 10 December 1997;
2. Calls upon all States to strive for a successful outcome of the Berlin Mandate process;
3. Notes the ongoing process of the review of the administrative arrangements regarding personnel and financial matters established in the context of the transitional arrangement for administrative support to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the biennium 1996-1997, and the arrangements made for the provision of conference services to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies for the biennium 1996-1997, as requested in paragraph 10 of its resolution 50/115 and paragraph 3 of its resolution 51/184;
4. Decides to maintain the arrangements regarding personnel and financial matters established in regard to the provisions of administrative support to the secretariat of the Convention, for the biennium 1998-1999, taking into account the review of the functioning of the institutional linkage called for in its resolution 50/115, and as reiterated in its resolution 51/184;
5. Also decides to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, entailing eight weeks of conference-serving facilities envisaged for that biennium;
6. Invites the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and following the outcome of the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;
7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

Montreal protocol

At 31 December, 162 States and the European Community (EC) were parties to the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer [YUN 1987, p. 686]. 116 States and EC were parties to the 1990 Amendment [YUN 1990, p. 522] to the Protocol, and 75 States and EC were parties to the 1992 Amendment [YUN 1992, p. 684].

The Ninth Meeting (Montreal, Canada, 15-17 September) of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol [UNEP/OzL.Pro/9/12] agreed on a phase-out schedule for methyl bromide, a fumigant and an ozone-depleting substance (ODS). The phase-out of methyl bromide by developed countries, previously set at 2010, had been moved up to 2005 with exemptions for critical uses and interim reductions of 25 per cent by 1999, 50 per cent by 2001 and 70 per cent by 2003. Developing countries agreed to a phase-out by 2015. In addition to $10 million agreed in 1996 for funding demonstration projects testing the feasibility of methyl bromide alternatives, the Multilateral Fund would make $25 million available annually in 1998 and 1999 for activities to phase out methyl bromide in developing countries. A new licensing system was adopted to prevent the illegal traffic of controlled substances, based on licences issued by parties for each import and export and on regular information exchange between parties. In other action, the Meeting asked parties to discourage the development and promotion of new substances with a significant potential to deplete the ozone layer, technologies to use such substances and use of those substances in various applications.