The Meeting amended the Protocol in areas dealing with banning the export and import of methyl bromide, the control of trade with parties and licensing. The Amendment would enter into force on 1 January 1999, provided that at least 20 instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval had been deposited by parties to the Protocol. The Tenth Meeting of the Parties would be held in November 1998 in Cairo, Egypt.

The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reported that, as at December, UNDP was assisting 60 countries to eliminate ODS [DP/1998/17/Add.2]. In 1997, total approvals were $45.4 million, with 99 per cent funded by the Executive Committee of the Protocol Multilateral Fund and 1 per cent funded through the Global Environment Facility for work in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Thus, the UNDP 1991-1997 cumulative project portfolio increased to $190 million. The portfolio comprised 730 projects, including 444 technology-transfer conversion projects, which would eliminate 24,226 tonnes per year of ODS. In 1997, UNDP completed 79 projects, thus raising the total number of projects completed during 1991-1997 to 252, including 49 technology-conversion projects that eliminated 3,065 tonnes of ODS yearly and 30 non-investment projects comprising training, technical cooperation, project preparation and demonstration projects. Under the programme, a total of $35 million was disbursed in 1997. UNDP also had programmes in 27 low-ODS-consuming countries and developed seven innovative approaches to eliminate ODS consumption in small and medium-sized enterprises.

**Convention on Biological Diversity**


The objectives of the Convention were the conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of the benefits of the use of biological diversity.

The fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was scheduled to take place in May 1998 in Bratislava, Slovakia.

**Commission action.** In accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/182 [YUN 1996, p. 957], the Secretary-General, in February [E/CN.17/1997/11], transmitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on experience gained under the Convention and on arrangements to coordinate activities related to the Convention’s objectives.

The Convention had become a vehicle to implement the concept of sustainable development and the policies of Agenda 21 in the area of biological diversity. Under Agenda 21’s social and economic dimensions, the Convention addressed international cooperation to accelerate sustainable development, combating poverty, changing consumption patterns, protecting and promoting health and integrating environment and development in decision-making. In the area of conservation and management of resources for development, it covered the protection of the atmosphere, an integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources, combating deforestation, managing fragile ecosystems, promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development, the environmentally sound management of biotechnology and the protection of the oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources. As to strengthening the role of major groups, the Convention corresponded to the chapters of Agenda 21 dealing with global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development, strengthening the role of indigenous people and their communities, strengthening the role of farmers and strengthening the role of business and industry.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 18 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/52/629/Add.5], adopted resolution 52/201 without vote [agenda item 98 (c)].

**Convention on Biological Diversity**

The General Assembly, Recalling its resolution 51/182 of 16 December 1996 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant resolutions relating to the Convention, Recalling also the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Recalling further Agenda 21, particularly its chapter 15 on the conservation of biological diversity and related chapters, Recalling the recommendations made at the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the review of chapter 15 of Agenda 21 on the conservation of biological diversity, Deeply concerned by the continued loss of the world’s biological diversity, and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reaffirming the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, Emphasizing that the Convention is an important instrument for achieving sustainable development, tak-