on sustainable development, convened in New York from 30 June to 9 July (see p. 944). He concluded that progress had been achieved, but there remained a challenge to communicate and demonstrate the added value of sustainable consumption and production and its potential contributions to competitiveness, social development, poverty eradication and climate change mitigation.

On 17 November (decision 2014/254), the Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretary-General’s progress report on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Illegal trade in wildlife

The Environment Assembly had before it a UNEP secretariat note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/19] on the illegal trade in wildlife and its environmental, social and economic consequences for sustainable development. The note summarized the scale of the crisis and the particular challenge of the illegal trade in woodfuel and charcoal. It was estimated that global resources worth between $48 billion and $158 billion were lost each year through the illegal trade of wildlife, and it played a significant role in threat finance by providing funding for organized crime and non-State armed groups, including terrorist groups. The illegal trade in wildlife was recognized as a significant threat to the environment and sustainable development, as reflected in a progression of international decisions, and the international community and individual countries had implemented a range of successful initiatives to address the crisis. The most effective responses were those that caused a reduction in consumer demand, but such responses required behavioural change, effected through greater awareness and understanding at the consumer end, including about how wildlife was laundered through legal supply chains. Trends suggested that priority attention should be focused on the illegal trade in charcoal and other forest products and the illegal trade derived from charismatic mammals, such as elephants and rhinoceros.

In light of the negative impact of wildlife trafficking on sustainable development, the Environmental Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/3)] stressed the importance of addressing the issue in the context of the post-2015 development framework (see p. 960) and requested the UNEP Executive Director to work closely with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Secretary-General’s Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, notably on core areas of UNEP expertise, such as environmental aspects of the rule of law, judicial training and information exchange about judicial decisions and practices. In the ministerial outcome document of its first session, the Assembly [res. 1/1] called on the international community and reaffirmed its commitment to take action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

Programme areas

Climate change

During the year, UNEP assisted governments, businesses and individuals on emissions reduction towards minimizing the pace and scale of climate change, and assisted nations and communities most likely to be affected to become more resilient to changing climatic conditions.

The Environmental Assembly had before it a UNEP secretariat note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/12] on progress in developing the global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA) since the twenty-seventh (2013) and first universal session of the UNEP Governing Council/Forum [YUN 2013, p. 986]. PROVIA represented an interface between the research community, decision makers and other stakeholders, helping the international community of practice share practical experiences and research findings.

In the ministerial outcome document of its first session, the Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/1)] called on the international community and reaffirmed its commitment to undertake urgent actions to address climate change, in accordance with the objective, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and to continue to work towards the adoption in 2015 of an ambitious outcome in the form of a protocol, other legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the UNFCCC applicable to all parties.

UN system coordination and cooperation

The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/2/Add.3] by the UNEP Executive Director on enhancing the coordinating role of UNEP in the UN system on environmental matters, prepared in follow-up to paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document, entitled “The future we want” [YUN 2012, p. 791].

Also before the Assembly was a report [UNEP/EA.1/3/Add.2] by the UNEP Executive Director on progress on the work of the Environment Management Group (EMG) [YUN 1998, p. 981], including its issue-specific and technical groups, pursuant to Governing Council decision 27/5 [YUN 2013, p. 989]. The report presented information on the Group’s activities and achievements in enhancing coherence in programming environmental activities, mainstreaming environment and enhancing sustainability in policies,