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November 6, 1992

Kathleen McGinty
Office of the Honorable Al Gore, Jr.
SR-393 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-4202

Dear Katie:

Enclosed, as promised, are various documents related to the Commission on Sustainable Development and broader UN reform efforts.

As I mentioned on the telephone, the negotiation of the resolution on the Commission is about to start, with a draft resolution due out tonight. The mixed signals being sent from the US delegation appear to be less the result of tactical planning and more of internal dispute. Reilly's speech on Monday to the General Assembly was fairly positive about creating a strong Commission, but the US discussion paper being circulated (and assumed to be the position paper) is much less supportive. For example, the paper deemphasizes some key roles (e.g., reviews of national behavior and that of the Bretton Woods institutions) and backs away from the Agenda 21 agreement re: using UNCED accreditation procedures as the basis for NGO participation in the Commission itself.

On the location of the Commission: I hear from Patricia Bliss-Guest that Mayor Dinkins is quite upset that the US has favored a Geneva location. As we discussed, the Swiss government is offering a substantial amount of money to support the Commission being based in Geneva -- not only in the form of providing the facilities but also, I understand, in the form of support to poorer countries to enable them to attend meetings in Geneva. To date the US has made no offer to provide new financial support for the Commission, insisting instead that it be financed within the existing UN budget (presumably by redirecting funds from other programs to the Commission).

Among the various action options you might consider:

- Following the debates on the CSD. Besides Ambassador Glaspie for US-UN, also detailed now are John McGuinness from State's International Organization Affairs Bureau, Patricia Bliss-Guest from CEQ, and Mark Kindall from EPA, the latter two only having observer roles but in a good position to follow what's going on;

- Quietly forwarding names of candidates for the high-level coordinator for the Commission secretariat and for sustainable development affairs;
- Considering some pledge of financial support for the work of the Commission in New York;
- Proposing someone to serve as the new Executive Director of UNEP; and
- Setting up meetings with the Secretary General or, more quietly, with his staff. They are expected in the next few weeks to announce a second phase of reform and restructuring which will have major implications for the ways in which environment and sustainable development issues are handled within the UN. (In this regard, you might want to begin to follow what Dick Thornburgh and the UN Department of Administration and Management heads are proposing in terms of budget and program cuts.)

I hope that this is helpful. Good luck with all you're doing!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Sessions', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathy Sessions
Policy Analyst

AFTER THE EARTH SUMMIT BULLETIN
Comparison of Position Papers on
the Commission on Sustainable Development
(as of 28 October 1992)
 prepared by Pamela Chasek (pchasek@cdp.apc.org)

Paper	G-77	China	United States	Japan	European Community	UN Secretary-General
Composition	53 states elected by ECOSOC for 3 yr terms; high level	53 states high-level	either 54 states (same members as ECOSOC) or another number to be chosen by ECOSOC	53 states; est. of 18-member high level advisory body	53, 24 or limited number of states, elected by ECOSOC for 3 year terms; full participation of EEC; high-level advisory body	limited membership, high level
Other States	observer status	observer status			observer status	observer status
NGOs	ECOSOC procedures	modified ECOSOC procedures to accredit other NGOS	ECOSOC procedures at a minimum; sizable expansion of NGOs on the ECOSOC roster		NGOs should participate on the basis of UNCED rules for accreditation; procedures to be prepared by UN Secretary-General	NGOs should participate on the basis of UNCED rules for accreditation
Meetings	annual for 3-4 weeks; venue TBD; first session 1993 in NY	annual for 2 weeks in NY; first session 1993		several weeks in advance of ECOSOC meetings	meet for 2-3 weeks in the 2nd quarter of 1993; meetings should fit calendar for ECOSOC, UNDP and UNEP; meetings to be held in Geneva	annually for a period of 2-3 weeks after the meetings of relevant UN IGOs
Meeting Agenda		address different subset of issues each year	address a selected subset of sectoral and cross-sectoral issues each year	set up a 5-year plan specifying themes to be discussed in depth each year		multi-year programme of work

Paper	G-77	China	United States	Japan	European Community	UN Secretary-General
Relations with other UN bodies	ensure active participation of other UN bodies	detailed description of relations; active cooperation	close cooperation	clear cut division of labor and coordination to avoid duplication	representatives of UN agencies to assist and advise Commission	close coordination with ECOSOC and other agencies
Secretariat	separate entity serviced from regular budget directed by a USG	within the DESD, directed by ASG	within DESD, directed by ASG; also responsible for supporting ACC	within the DESD, directed by ASG		
Location of Secretariat	not specified	NY or Geneva	Geneva	NY	to be determined based on functions of Secretariat	Geneva or NY; to be determined at a later date
Functions (mostly as described in Chapter 38 of A-21)	monitor progress in implementing A-21	monitor progress in implementing A-21	review implementation of A-21	not specified	monitor implementation and update A-21	monitor implementation and update A-21
	review govt reports				review govt reports	review govt reports
	implementation of commitments in A-21, esp. finance and tech transfer				implementation of commitments in A-21, esp. finance and tech transfer	implementation of commitments in A-21, esp. finance and tech transfer
	progress towards 0.7% for ODA	progress towards 0.7% for ODA			progress towards 0.7% for ODA	progress towards 0.7% for ODA
	adequacy of funding mechanisms	adequacy of funding mechanism				
	receive and analyze input from competent NGOs		participation of IFIs and NGOs encouraged		receive and analyze relevant input from NGOs	receive and analyze relevant input from NGOs
	enhance dialogue with NGOs				enhance dialogue with NGOs	enhance dialogue with NGOs

Paper	G-77	China	United States	Japan	European Community	UN Secretary-General
	consider progress made in implementation of env. conventions		review implementation of environmental conventions periodically		review progress in the implementation of environmental conventions	review progress in the implementation of environmental conventions
Functions (cont)			review the UN systems efforts to carry out A-21			
					assess need for further international cooperation on forest issues	
Followup	special session of GA by 1997			special session of GA on environment in 1997	special session of GA by 1997	special session of GA by 1997



16 October 1992

Group of 77 Position Paper on Post-UNCED Institutional Arrangements

1. A high level Commission on Sustainable Development shall be established as a functional Commission of ECOSOC in accordance with Article 68 of the Charter in order to ensure the effective follow-up of the Conference, as well as to enhance international cooperation and rationalize the inter-governmental decisions making capacity for the integration of environment and development issues and to examine the progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national, regional, and international levels, fully guided by the principles of the Rio Declaration and all other aspects of UNCED, in order to achieve sustainable development in all countries.

Composition

2. The CSD will be composed of 53 Member States elected by ECOSOC for three years on the basis of equitable geographic distribution. Representation should be as high level as possible.

3. Member states that are not members of the CSD or of the specialized agencies of the United Nations may participate as observers, on their request and in accordance with the rules and practices established by the General Assembly. Observers of UN System may also participate in the Commission in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly.

4. Election of Member States of the CSD shall be held at the next organizational session of ECOSOC in February 1993.

Functions:

5. The functions of the Commission shall be:

(a) To monitor progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and activities related to the integration of environmental and developmental goals throughout the United Nations system through analysis and evaluation of reports from all relevant organs, organizations, programmes and institutions of the United Nations system dealing with various issues of environment and development, including those related to finance;

(b) To consider information provided by Governments, including, for example, in the form of periodic communications or national reports regarding the activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the problems they face, such as problems related to financial resources and technology transfer, and other environment and development issues they find relevant;

(c) To review the progress in the implementation of the commitments contained in Agenda 21, including those related to provision of financial resources and transfer of technology;

(d) To regularly review and monitor progress towards the accepted UN target of 0.7% for

ODA. This review process should systematically combine the monitoring of implementation of Agenda 21 with the review of financial resources available;

(e) To review on a regular basis the adequacy of funding and mechanisms, including efforts to reach agreed objectives of Chapter 33 of Agenda 21, including targets where applicable;

(f) To provide appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly through the ECOSOC on the basis of an integrated consideration of the reports and issues related to the implementation of Agenda 21.

(g) To receive and analyze relevant input from competent non-governmental organizations, including the scientific and the private sector, in the context of the overall implementation of Agenda 21;

(h) To enhance the dialogue within the framework of the United Nations with non-governmental organizations and the independent sector as well as other entities outside the United Nations system;

(i) To consider, at an appropriate time, the results of the survey to be conducted expeditiously by the United Nations Secretary-General of all UNCED recommendations for capacity-building programmes, information networks, task forces and other mechanisms to support the integration of environment and development at regional and sub-regional levels;

(j) To consider, where appropriate, information regarding the progress made in the implementation of environmental conventions which could be made available by the relevant Conferences of Parties;

6. In the fulfillment of these functions, the Commission will do the following:

i. Transfer of Technology

To monitor progress achieved in attaining the objectives contained in Chapter 34 of Agenda 21 concerning the transfer of environmentally sound technology and capacity building. Of particular importance in this regard would be the evaluation of the promotion facilitation and financing of and the access to and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms.

ii. Relations with financing sources and mechanisms

The CSD must regularly review and monitor Agenda 21 related activities of various financing sources and mechanisms in order to fulfill the objectives of Chapter 33 of Agenda 21, and to ensure an effective link between the availability and maximization of new and additional financial resources and the implementation of Agenda 21. For this purpose, the CSD shall monitor and make recommendations involving the following:

- a. Multilateral, regional and sub-regional development banks and funds including IDA and GEF.
 - b. Relevant UN specialized agencies, other UN bodies and other international organizations.
 - c. Multilateral institutions for capacity building and technical cooperation
- iii. In the same spirit and in addition the CSD shall encourage and facilitate:
- a. Bilateral assistance programmes
 - b. Debt Relief
 - c. Private funding
- iv. In addition, the CSD should encourage and facilitate innovative financing and mobilize higher levels of foreign direct investment and promote the transfer of technology on concessional and preferential terms.
7. The CSD should attach particular importance to the following commitments made in Agenda 21, which have a particular relevance for its first substantive session:
- a. Substantial early commitments by developed countries and others in a position to do so to make initial financial commitments to give effect to the decisions of the Conference. The realization of this objective at the 47th General Assembly in 1992 must be reviewed;
 - b. monitoring additional grant and concessional funding provided by the restructured GEF¹; designed to achieve global environmental benefits and which should cover the agreed incremental costs of relevant activities under Agenda 21, in particular for developing countries.
 - c. the provision of an "Earth Increment" in the tenth replenishment of IDA.²

Relations with the UN system

8. The CSD shall not replace other subsidiary bodies of the ECOSOC, and shall relate to the system as follows:
- i. The CSD shall submit a report to the General Assembly through ECOSOC, in accordance with relevant articles of the UN Charter containing policy and coordination recommendations to be dealt with by ECOSOC and the General Assembly in accordance with their respective responsibilities as defined in the Charter.

¹According to proposals contained in paragraph 33.14[iii] of Agenda 21.

²As indicated in the statement made by the President of the World Bank at UNCED.

- ii. In view of the fact that in the implementation of Agenda 21 all relevant organs, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system will have an important role, within their respective areas of expertise and mandates, the CSD must ensure their active participation in its deliberations.

Relations with NGO's

9. The Commission shall encourage participation of NGO's according to the rules of procedure of ECOSOC.

Secretariat

10. The Secretariat for the CSD shall be set up in accordance with article 8 and 101 of the Charter as a support unit for its activities and for interagency coordination mechanism, and those of the proposed High level advisory body, to be appointed by the Secretary General.

11. The Secretary General of the United Nations shall make adequate arrangements in order to ensure full cooperation between the Secretariat for CSD and DESD as well as close coordination with the Secretariats of relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the UN system, including the secretariat of multilateral financial institutions.

12. The Secretariat, as an identified separate entity, shall be serviced from the regular budget and directed by a USG reporting directly to the Secretary-General.

13. Its personnel must be highly qualified and competent and drawing, inter alia, on the expertise gained in the UNCED preparatory process, with due regard to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

Frequency of meetings

14. The CSD shall meet once a year for three or four weeks, not later than march, at a venue to be agreed upon during the current session of the General Assembly. The first session must be held in 1993 in New York.

15. The CSD shall set out its own agenda, organization and program of work. The work of the Commission will operate under the rules of procedure of ECOSOC.

Special Session of the General Assembly

16. The General Assembly should convene a special session, at the latest in 1997, in order to examine and evaluate the implementation of Agenda 21, including if needed relevant institutional arrangements. Preparations should begin during the 50th session of the General Assembly.

U.S. VIEWS ON THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

General

--The U.S. warmly welcomed agreement at Rio on the institutional arrangements for the follow-up to UNCED, and particularly the recommendation for an ECOSOC commission on sustainable development (CSD), with the functions specified in chapter 38 of Agenda 21.

--It is especially significant that the UN's involvement in the implementation of UNCED's results will be fully integrated into ongoing efforts to revitalize the UN's activities and programs, particularly in economic and social affairs.

--It is of signal importance that UN efforts in response to UNCED are firmly grounded in reliance on existing resources in the current UN budget. Activities beyond 1993 should be financed within a framework of zero real growth and maximum absorption of non-discretionary cost increases, taking into account savings achieved through ongoing UN reform.

--Placing the intergovernmental follow-up to UNCED squarely within the ECOSOC structure should also strengthen the prospects for further consolidation, enhanced coordination, and elimination of wasteful duplication that are the chief goals of the process of ECOSOC reform and revitalization that is now underway.

--The nature of governmental representation to the Commission will significantly affect its chances for success.

--As a "high level" body, the commission need not necessarily have ministers as representatives of its member governments, but delegations to the commission's meetings should consist of a good mix of influential policy makers and senior technical experts.

Secretariat Support

--Follow-up to UNCED should be fully incorporated into the ongoing revitalization of the UN's economic and social sectors, centered around the new Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD) which is based in New York and includes the staff element designated for support of ECOSOC itself.

--The UNCED follow-up staff should accordingly be formed as a discrete, identifiable element under DESD, perhaps as a new division dedicated to fulfillment of this task, with a core staff of 15 to 20 professionals.

--It should be supplemented or reinforced by secondments from appropriate UN and associated agencies or entities, especially UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank, as well as by appropriate specialists on limited-term contracts from outside the UN in such areas as industry, finance, science and technology.

--The new staff element would be based in Geneva, the better to facilitate and benefit from interaction among the specialized technical agencies, with a liaison component in New York to interact with the main UN secretariat, the ECOSOC secretariat, and UNDP, which is supposed to play a major role in the field in supporting implementation of UNCED's results, especially in capacity building.

--The staff element for UNCED follow-up should be headed by a suitable senior secretariat official, perhaps at the assistant secretary general level, formally under the aegis of the undersecretary general in charge of DESD.

--The staff element should also be responsible for supporting the efforts of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), largely centered in Geneva, to ensure adequate coordination among UN agencies and bodies in response to UNCED.

--An ad hoc task force composed of the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and WHO has already formed to address the UN agencies' follow-up to UNCED.

--The Designated Officials on Environmental Matters (DOEM), and the Committee of International Development Institutions on the Environment (CIDIE) should be brought into close association with, or subsumed by, the ACC's post-UNCED coordination effort.

--FAO was named to get the task force organized in preparation for full ACC treatment of the UNCED follow-up this fall; a different arrangement will probably be needed for the longer term, including a major role for the head of the UNCED follow-up staff.

--The need to ensure close cooperation with the main secretariat (especially DESD) and UNDP on a day-to-day basis through an effective liaison office in New York will also be critical.

Functions

--The commission will put into practice the functions specified in Chapter 38 of Agenda 21, as agreed in Rio.

--The central purpose of the commission should be to provide an appropriate intergovernmental forum for exchanges of information about national and multilateral experiences in implementing or responding to UNCED, and generally to review the implementation of Agenda 21.

--This should include review of UN system -- especially regionally based -- efforts to carry out UNCED's Agenda 21.

--Properly managed, CSD should be able to foster an open, ongoing dialogue regarding lessons learned, problems encountered, solutions found, and best practices developed and applied in the integration of environment and development, as outlined sector by sector in Agenda 21.

--The participation of the international financial institutions (IFI's) and relevant non-governmental organizations (NGO's) will be especially important and should be encouraged to the maximum feasible extent.

Location

--The location of the commission and its supporting staff, as well as the quality of the staff's operations and its linkages with the rest of the UN system, will be critical to the success of the follow-up to UNCED.

--The two realistic options are Geneva and New York, where adequate UN infrastructure exists for UN system-wide communication, cooperation, and coordination.

--The U.S. believes that Geneva is the appropriate location for the CSD.

----Geneva offers the best venue for facilitating close cooperation with all technical specialized agencies, because it has become established in practice as the locale for interagency interaction.

--The participation and close cooperation of these technical agencies with the work of the CSD will help immensely in the implementation of UNCED's results.

--The U.S. therefore favors Geneva as the best venue for the commission and its supporting staff.

structure

- The commission should take the form of a functional commission under ECOSOC, with the recognized rules of procedure established for such bodies as set forth in document E/5975/Rev.1 of 18 January 1983, which include provisions for the participation of non-member states as well as the involvement of non-governmental organizations.
- The commission could be authorized to modify its procedures as experience may demonstrate to be necessary, subject to ECOSOC approval.
- Member states of functional commissions are chosen by ECOSOC; it could be advantageous in terms of time and effort simply to declare the 54-state membership of ECOSOC also to be the membership of the commission.
- Alternatively, the commission's membership could be set at the lowest mutually agreed number deemed to be compatible with the requirement that the commission be representative, with membership distributed geographically in the same proportions as ECOSOC's membership.
- Members of the commission would be chosen by ECOSOC, preferably during an organizing session early next year after the General Assembly acts to approve and define the commission as recommended by UNCED.
- As part and parcel of ECOSOC revitalization and reform, the establishment of the commission should entail appropriate adaptation of other proposals for new commissions and expert groups.
- Specifically, the new commission on science and technology for development should be combined with or subsumed under the sustainable development commission -- it is difficult to see how its mandate would differ in any significant way from the technology-related aspects of Agenda 21 as taken up by the commission on sustainable development.
- The new experts' committees on natural resources (water and minerals) and energy should also be absorbed by the CSD, or possibly become subordinate bodies of the CSD with appropriately adjusted mandates.
- It would probably be wise to minimize the early creation of subordinate elements of the CSD, in order to avoid the risk of diffusing the CSD's responsibilities in an unmanageable or counter-productive manner.

IFT's

--The World Bank and the regional multilateral development banks should be asked to provide information at each CSD session on their experiences with promoting [per Agenda 21] the environmental dimensions of international development assistance and investment, and to offer their advice on ways to encourage such funding -- including improved project and program planning on the part of recipient countries to take full account of environmental considerations in national development strategies.

--The World Bank, UNDP and UNEP should be invited to describe to each CSD session the previous year's experience with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and to describe plans for the coming year.

NGO's

--The contributions of non-governmental organizations to the discussions will also be important, and we will need to explore ECOSOC's consultative procedures for NGO's to provide for the active involvement of such organizations in the process.

--At a minimum, NGO's should be able to participate in CSD sessions on a consultative basis according to the standard ECOSOC practice, though a sizable expansion of NGO's on the Roster, and to some extent in Category II, is undoubtedly in order in the aftermath of UNCED. [Consultative status before ECOSOC and its subordinate bodies is classified by listing the organization in question as Category I or II, or on the Roster, with privileges defined accordingly: greatest for Category I, least for the Roster.]

--We will also need to consider provisions that would ensure the involvement of the business and scientific communities, as well.

Agenda

--A well focused agenda will be essential to the commission's effective operation.

--The first meeting of the commission should strive for some agreement on the priorities for review of chapters in Agenda 21, as it will not be feasible to address all of Agenda 21 at any given session.

--Based on these priorities, at each subsequent session the commission should address a selected subset of sectoral and cross-sectoral issues from Agenda 21, as part of a sequential consideration of the entire action plan over approximately a five year cycle, culminating in a comprehensive summary review, probably at the ECOSOC level, with a report to the General Assembly.

--The strongest possible encouragement should be given to national presentations of information regarding plans for and experience with the implementation of Agenda 21, particularly in those sector(s) selected for specific attention at each CSD session.

--Reports of the ACC regarding UN interagency coordination in following up UNCED should also be noted and discussed at each session of the commission, with comments provided for the coordinating segment of the full ECOSOC.

--The CSD should also as a priority matter consider the regional and sub-regional follow-up to UNCED, beginning with consideration of the consolidated study of all UNCED recommendations for regional and sub-regional capacity building, information networks and task forces in various sectors, as recommended in Chapter 38 of Agenda 21.

--Any information provided by independent treaty bodies on the implementation of environmental conventions could be taken up periodically by the CSD, but perhaps not every year, unless a treaty body's report is directly relevant to the sectoral items on the agenda for a particular CSD session.

NON PAPER ON UNCED INSTITUTIONAL FOLLOW UP

The General Assembly,

Having considered the text of Chapter 38 of Agenda 21 on International Institutional Arrangements referred to it by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the Secretary-General's report,

Stressing the overall objective of the integration of environment and development issues at national, subregional, regional and international levels, including in the United Nations system institutional arrangements, and the following specific objectives:

- (a) To ensure and review the implementation of Agenda 21 so as to achieve sustainable development in all countries;
- (b) To enhance the role and functioning of the United Nations system in the field of environment and development. All relevant agencies, organisations and programmes of the United Nations system should adopt concrete programmes for the implementation of Agenda 21 and also provide policy guidance for United Nations activities or advice to Governments, upon request, within their areas of competence;
- (c) To strengthen cooperation and coordination on environment and development in the United Nations system;
- (d) To encourage interaction and cooperation between the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental subregional, regional and global institutions and non-governmental organisations in the field of environment and development;

- (e) To strengthen institutional capabilities and arrangements required for the effective implementation, follow-up and review of Agenda 21;
- (f) To assist in the strengthening and coordination of national, subregional and regional capacities and actions in the areas of environment and development;
- (g) To establish effective cooperation and exchange of information between United Nations organs, organisations, programmes and the multilateral financial bodies, within the institutional arrangements for the follow-up of Agenda 21;
- (h) To respond to continuing and emerging issues relating to environment and development;
- (i) To ensure that any new institutional arrangements would support revitalisation, clear division of responsibilities and the avoidance of duplication in the United Nations system and depend to the maximum extent possible upon existing resources.

I

High Level Commission on Sustainable Development

1. Requests the Economic and Social Council in accordance with Article 68 of the Charter to establish a High Level Commission on Sustainable Development in order to assist the Council in the performance of its functions through the submission of proposals, reports and recommendations containing guidance to the UN system and the international community more generally and to follow up decisions of the UN Conference on Environment and Development.

(A) Functions

2. Decides that the High Level Commission on Sustainable Development shall have the following functions and responsibilities as set out in Chapter 38.13 of Agenda 21:

- (a) To monitor progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and activities related to the integration of environmental and developmental goals throughout the United Nations system through analysis and evaluation of reports from all relevant organs, organisations, programmes and institutions of the United Nations system dealing with various issues of environment and development, including those related to finance;
- (b) To consider information provided by Governments, including, for example, in the form of periodic communications or national reports, regarding the activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the problems they face such as problems related to financial resources and technology transfer, and other environment and development issues they find relevant.
- (c) To review the progress in the implementation of the commitments contained in Agenda 21, including those related to the provision of financial resources and transfer of technology.
- (d) To receive and analyse relevant input from competent non-governmental organisations, including the scientific and the private sectors in the context of the overall implementation of Agenda 21;
- (e) To enhance the dialogue within the framework of the United Nations, with non-governmental organisations and the independent sector, as well as other entities outside the United Nations system;

(f) To consider, where appropriate, information regarding the progress made in the implementation of environmental conventions which could be made available by the relevant Conferences of Parties;

(g) To provide appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council on the basis of an integrated consideration of the reports and issues related to the implementation of Agenda 21;

(h) To consider at an appropriate time, the results of the review to be conducted expeditiously by the Secretary-General of all recommendations of the Conference for capacity-building programmes, information networks, task forces and other mechanisms to support the integration of environment and development at regional and sub-regional levels;

Further decides that the Commission will:

(i) review and monitor progress regularly towards the United Nations target of 0.7% of gross national product for official development assistance in accordance with Chapter 33 of Agenda 21. It will be important to review on a regular basis the adequacy of funding and mechanisms to finance Agenda 21 including efforts to reach agreed objectives in Chapter 33 including targets where applicable;

(j) keep under assessment with regard to further international cooperation on forest issues the adequacy of the non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, including countries' adherence to them;

(k) keep the issues in Agenda 21 under review in the light of

their evolving character.

**(B) Representation and arrangements
for participation of non-members**

3. Decides in accordance with Chapter 38 of Agenda 21 that:

(a) The Commission will consist of the representatives of [53] [24] [a limited number less than ECOSOC of] states elected as members by the Economic and Social Council for three year terms. Each member of the Commission shall, after consultation with the Secretary General and subject to confirmation by the Economic and Social Council designate its representatives on the Commission on the basis of the practice of functional commissions of ECOSOC. Representatives of non-member states of the Commission will have observer status in accordance with United Nations practice. The distribution of seats between geographical groups should be decided as soon as possible, but no later than the 1993 organisational session of the Economic and Social Council, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution.

(b) The Commission should provide for the European Economic Community to participate fully in its work in accordance with its responsibilities and the footnote to the preamble of Agenda 21.

(c) The Commission should provide for representatives of various parts of the United Nations system and other international organisations, including international financial institutions, IFAD, the GATT, regional development banks, relevant regional and subregional intergovernmental economic and technical cooperation

organisations, and regional economic integration organisations to assist and advise the Commission in the performance of its functions.

(d) The Commission should provide for non-governmental organisations, including those related to major groups to contribute practically and constructively to its work on the basis of procedures for their accreditation and participation used in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as recommended in para 38.44 of Agenda 21.

4. Requests the Secretary-General to present draft rules of procedure for the Sustainable Development Commission to ECOSOC as soon as possible, but no later than its organisational session of 1993, which provide for the enhanced participation of inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations in its work as set out in paragraph 3 above.

(C) Programme and Organisation of Work

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to ECOSOC as soon as possible, but no later than its organisational session of 1993, a provisional agenda for the first meeting of the Commission on the basis of the following organization of work and in accordance with the functions listed in I(A) above.

(i) Working Level Segments

(a) A segment on implementation of Agenda 21 by international organisations.

(b) A segment on implementation of Agenda 21 including consideration of reports or periodic communications provided

by national governments and regional organisations. In this context the Secretary-General is requested to report on ways in which the United Nations system is assisting countries, particularly developing countries, in the preparation of national reports and national Agenda 21 action plans.

(c) A segment on issues relating to financing of Agenda 21 and transfer of technology.

(ii) Ministerial Level Meeting

(d) A Ministerial level meeting to consider urgent policy questions and give further political impetus to the implementation of the decisions of UNCED.

6. Decides that the Commission shall meet for approximately two/three weeks in the second quarter of the year at the latest.

7. Requests the Committee on Conferences to consider the need for re-adjusting the calendar of meetings in order to take account of the interrelationship between the work of the Commission and the work of the Governing Councils of UNDP and UNEP as well as of the Economic and Social Council.

(D) Secretariat arrangements

8. A highly qualified and competent Secretariat support structure should be established within the UN Secretariat on the basis of the following criteria:

- It should draw on the expertise gained in the UNCED preparatory process and build on the working methods and organisational structures developed by the UNCED Secretariat in Geneva. It should work closely with UN and other expert bodies in the field of sustainable development and, to the extent possible, should be

positioned in such a way that it can remain free of day to day political pressures;

- The venue of the Secretariat should be determined taking account of the functions envisaged for it and the need to maximise efficiency;
- The high-ranking official heading the Secretariat support structure should be able to give leadership on sustainable development issues throughout the UN system, under the authority of the Secretary-General and with access to him;
- The structure should service in particular the High Level Sustainable Development Commission, the body entrusted with interagency coordination, and the High Level Advisory Board;
- Sustainable development should be integrated and coordinated with other economic and social activities of the Secretariat. The Secretary-General will wish to consider the optimum structure in the context of the second phase of the restructuring;
- An interim arrangement could be considered to prepare for the first meeting of the Sustainable Development Commission, based on the present UNCED interim Secretariat, pending the Secretary-General's decision on the second phase of the restructuring.

(E) Location

9. Decides that the High Level Sustainable Development Commission should meet in Geneva.

II

Relationship between the Sustainable Development Commission and other intergovernmental bodies in the economic, social and related fields

1. Endorses the view in Chapter 38 of Agenda 21 that the organisational modalities for the Commission should take into account the ongoing process of revitalisation and restructuring of the work of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in particular measures recommended by the General Assembly in resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992 and other relevant Assembly resolutions.

2. Requests the Secretary-General to make appropriate recommendations to the 48th General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council on such modifications as may be required to the inter-governmental structure in the economic, social and related fields to optimise the work of the Commission and other bodies concerned with questions of sustainable development including the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development.

III

Coordination

1. Stresses that, in accordance with Chapter 38 of Agenda 21, all relevant organs, programmes and organisations of the United Nations system have a key role to play in supporting and supplementing national efforts, under the overall guidance of the

General Assembly and that to ensure proper coordination and avoid duplication in the implementation of Agenda 21 there should be an effective division of labour between various parts of the United Nations system based on their terms of reference and comparative advantage.

2. Requests all United Nations specialised agencies and related organisations of the UN system to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium term plans in line with Agenda 21, in particular regarding projects for promoting sustainable development in accordance with Chapter 38.28 of Agenda 21, and to report through the High Level Commission on Sustainable Development to the 1993 or, at the latest, the 1994 session of the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with Article 64 of the Charter, on steps they have taken to give effect to this recommendation.

3. Requests all Member States, through relevant governing bodies, to ensure that the tasks assigned to these bodies are carried out effectively, including the elaboration and publication of reports on a regular basis of the activities of the organs, programmes and organisations for which they are responsible and that serious and continuous reviews are undertaken of their policies, programmes, budgets and activities.

4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the first meeting of the Sustainable Development Commission on his actions to revitalise the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination under his leadership to ensure effective monitoring, co-ordination and supervision of the involvement of the United Nations system in the follow up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in accordance with Chapter 38.16 and 38.17 of Agenda 21.

IV

Regional Commissions

1. Requests regional commissions to review the need for modification of on-going activities and their relationships with other relevant organisations in particular, regional development banks, sub-regional organisations, UNEP, UNDP and Non-Governmental Organisations to take account of the contribution they can make to the implementation of Agenda 21 in accordance with Chapter 38.29 of Agenda 21.

2. Further requests the regional commissions to report the conclusions of their review through the Commission on Sustainable Development to the 1993 or, at the latest, the 1994 session of the Economic and Social Council.

V

United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office

1. Requests the governing councils of UNEP, the UNDP and the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD to examine the relevant paragraphs of Chapter 38 of Agenda 21 at their next meetings and to make appropriate recommendations on their detailed implementation to the 48th session of the General Assembly.

VI

High Level Advisory Body

1. Endorses the view in paragraph 38.18 of Agenda 21 that inter-governmental bodies, the Secretary-General and the United Nations system as a whole may benefit from the expertise of a high level advisory board consisting of eminent persons knowledgeable about environment and development, including relevant sciences, appointed by the Secretary-General in their personal capacity.

2. Notes the important contribution of the Committee for Development Planning in the economic and social aspects of development and the relevance of this Committee to the implementation of Agenda 21 and other conclusions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

3. Requests the Secretary-General to propose to the Economic and Social Council at its 1993 session appropriate adjustments to the Committee for Development Planning to enable the Committee to assimilate the functions of the high level advisory board.

VII

Review Process

1. Requests the Secretary-General to make recommendations to the 48th Session of the General Assembly on paragraph 38.9 of Agenda 21 which proposes that the General Assembly could consider holding a special session not later than 1997 for the overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21 with adequate preparations at a high level.

The Non-paper* of the Chinese Delegation on Post-UNCED Activities

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*Note: This non-paper reflects only the preliminary thinking of the Chinese Delegation. It is meant to be an input into the collective brainstorming process leading up to the finalization of our decisions. The Chinese Delegation stands ready to join others in exploring the various possibilities with an open mind.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development is over, but the process towards a new global partnership characterized by equitable cooperation is just beginning. The momentum that carried the Conference to a successful conclusion threatens to taper off if the international community does not take prompt, practical and effective action to follow up on the outcome of the Conference, which constitutes the blueprint for international cooperation in the field of environment and development into the 21st century and beyond. This imparts importance and urgency to the current session of the UNGA, the first major international conference on post-UNCED activities and the first test of the strength of the envisaged new partnership.

2. The basic objective of the follow-up activities should be to ensure that the right to development is fulfilled, through the implementation of what has been agreed upon at the UNCED, in order that all peoples from the developing as well as developed world achieve sustainable development and lead an ever more healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

3. With a view to achieving this objective, the international community should adopt a holistic and integrative approach towards the outcome of the UNCED, and should in particular observe the following principles:

(a) Environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be viewed in isolation from it;

(b) States have common but differentiated responsibilities in the pursuit of sustainable development;

(c) The special situation and needs of developing countries shall be given priority; and

(d) International cooperation should be based on the respect for state sovereignty.

4. The tasks ahead are formidable. At the current session of the GA, priority should be given to the twin issue of institutional arrangements and financial resources as a fulcrum to lever the follow-up process off the ground.

II. The COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MANDATE

5. According to Agenda 21, the mandate of the Commission is to ensure the effective follow-up of the UNCED, as well as to enhance international cooperation and rationalize the intergovernmental decision-making capacity for the integration of environment and development issues and to examine the progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national, regional and international levels. The Commission would function as one of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and would report to the Council in the context of the Council's role under the Charter vis-a-vis the General Assembly.

6. The Commission should operate on the basis of the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, from which its mandate emanates, and should also be guided in its work by the fundamental principles enshrined in the Charter.

FUNCTIONS

7. The functions of the Commission have been spelt out in explicit terms in Agenda 21. These include the functions required of it that are contained in Chapter 33 of the Agenda, i.e.:

(a) To regularly review and monitor progress towards the target of 0.7% of GNP for ODA, in systematic combination with the monitoring of the implementation of Agenda 21; and

(b) To review on a regular basis the adequacy of funding and mechanisms, including objectives and targets, where applicable, related to financial resources contained in Agenda 21.

MEMBERSHIP

8. If the UNCED follow-up process is to succeed, it is imperative for it to have the widest possible support and involvement of the international community in view of the global nature of the problems we face and the recourse we could possibly have. This line of reasoning underlines the importance of our having a broad-based, adequately representative CSD, with a membership elected with due regard to equitable geographic distribution.

9. In view of the above and its status as a subsidiary body of the ECOSOC, it is advisable for the Commission to consist of no less than 53 members.

REPRESENTATION

10. The representation at the Commission should normally be at a high level, although it could be the ministerial level when the occasion so requires. The procedure for representative accreditation should be simple and flexible, in view of the multifacetedness of its agendas and the possible need as a consequence for member states to send different representatives with responsibilities for different sectors to different sessions.

PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBER STATES

11. States members of the United Nations that are not members of the Commission on Sustainable Development and other States may participate in the deliberations of the Commission as observers. In the same vein as Paragraph 8 above, although they shall not have the right to vote, they should be enabled to participate fully and effectively in the deliberations of the Commission, and all efforts should be made at consensus-building.

PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

12. It is apparently beneficial to have the potential realized for non-governmental organizations to contribute positively and constructively to the work of the CSD.

13. The procedures for facilitating and guiding the participation of NGOs in the Commission should follow essentially Article 71 of the Charter and the established practice of the ECOSOC.

14. The procedures for the accreditation of NGOs could be based on the procedures used in the UNCED process, as laid down in decisions 1/1 and 2/1 of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference. In particular, necessary concrete and practical measures should be taken to encourage and support an equitable representation of NGOs from developed and developing countries and from all regions and also to ensure a fair balance between NGOs with an environmental focus and those with a developmental focus, including NGOs related to major groups and scientific communities. To this end, the Secretary General may be asked to seek necessary resources to facilitate access of the CSD to especially important contributions that would otherwise be unavailable, particularly through the effective participation of institutions and experts from developing countries.

15. The rules governing the participation of NGOs in the sessions of the Commission could embrace, inter alia, the notion of setting up a sessional subsidiary body to assist the Commission in dealing with accreditation applications, processing requests from NGOs for consultative status or others duly accredited for consultations in connection with a particular session of the CSD on matters within the competence of the organizations concerning specific items on

the agenda, and to make recommendations, subject to the approval of the CSD or other relevant subsidiary organs concerned, on which organizations should be heard by the CSD or another subsidiary organ that may be established by the CSD, and on what subject. The Commission should have the final say as to the specifics of the necessary arrangement as each case may require.

16. The NGOs should be given appropriate access to relevant information, including relevant data and reports produced within the UN system and other relevant information being considered by the Commission, subject to possible rules on confidentiality.

FREQUENCY, DURATION AND VENUE

17. The Commission should meet at a regular session each year, usually for no longer than two weeks. The duration could be extended at the end/start of multi-year cycles (See the next paragraph). The Commission could convene special sessions if necessary. The regular sessions of the Commission will preferably be held in New York.

AGENDA & PROGRAMME OF WORK

18. To ensure that the sessions of the CSD are clearly focused so that the various issues could be addressed efficiently and effectively, the work of the Commission could be spread out in multi-year cycles, with the elaboration of coextensive programmes of work. Each annual session could concentrate on a specific cluster of issues or areas, taking fully into account the need for a balanced and integrated approach to environment and development, without prejudice to the right of members to speak to issues of a broader nature. The agenda for each and every session should incorporate ipso facto a component on financial resources and transfer of technology in their relations to both the cluster to be discussed and the entire Agenda 21 at large.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL UN BODIES

19. In determining the organizational modalities of the CSD, account should be taken of the ongoing process of revitalization and restructuring of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in particular measures recommended by the GA in resolutions 45/264 and 46/235. In this context, the relationships between the Commission and other intergovernmental UN bodies should be shaped in such a way as to enable the Commission to build on the strengths of the system as well as its individual parts through a clear and rational division of labour and the effective and efficient use of human, financial and other resources available, to avoid duplicative activities and above all, to optimize the functioning of the UN system as a whole in the pursuit of sustainable development. They should also serve the general purpose of enhancing the role of the UN in economic, social and

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related fields. Consistent with these requirements and in accordance with Agenda 21 (See 38.9, 38.10 and 38.13, <a> and <g>) and the Charter (Articles 63 and 64), the relationship could contain the following elements:

(a) Arrangements could be made for the CSD on one hand, and other organs, organizations, programmes, agencies and institutions of the UN system, including the specialized agencies on the other, to participate in each other's meetings;

(b) All relevant organs, organizations, programmes and institutions of the UN system dealing with various issues of environment and development, including those related to finance, should provide regular reports to the CSD on the activities they carry out to implement Agenda 21, especially on the steps taken to give effect to such recommendations as may be made under Section (c) below; appropriate steps should be taken for the CSD to obtain, through ECOSOC, regular reports of a similar nature from the specialized agencies; and

(c) The CSD should provide appropriate recommendations to the GA through ECOSOC and should assist the ECOSOC, by making recommendations, in discharging the responsibility of system-wide coordination, including the coordination of the activities of the specialized agencies, in the integration of environmental and developmental aspects of UN policies and programmes, in particular those related to the implementation of Agenda 21.

20. It is inappropriate to start replacing or merging other existing bodies upon the establishment of the CSD, as they all have distinct lines of responsibilities of their own, which may or may not intersect with that of the CSD. Hasty decisions will only weaken the role of the UN in relevant fields.

RELATIONSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

21. It is essential to ensure that the CSD develops a strong and viable interactive relationship with international financial institutions. The CSD should systematically monitor these institutions' activities carried out in pursuit of sustainable development, particularly in relation to the implementation of Agenda 21.

22. Apart from what is contained in the preceding section, which is at least as pertinent in this context, some other elements of such a relationship could be: (a) an open, transparent and democratic decision-making process on either part; and (b) prompt and unimpeded flow of relevant information between the CSD and the IFIs. (See Part III for more discussion of the possible role of the CSD in the provision of financial resources.)

SECRETARIAT

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23. The organizational modality of the Secretariat for the CSD should be conceived in such a way as to befit its functions, some of which may be:

(1) To make arrangements for sessions of the CSD and any of its subsidiary bodies that may be established by the CSD and to provide them with services as required;

(2) To receive, gather, as appropriate, compile and upon request by the CSD analyze relevant information, including that contained in reports or communications from governments and relevant organs, organizations, programmes and institutions of the UN system, with a view to assisting the CSD in the discharge of its monitoring and review functions;

(3) To assist the Secretary General in formulating recommendations, upon request by the CSD, ECOSOC or GA, with regard to system-wide coordination in the implementation of Agenda 21, and to provide necessary secretariat support for ACC activities as they relate to the achievement of sustainable development; and

(4) To establish and maintain close and effective liaison with the secretariats of other international bodies and financial institutions, within and outside the UN system, dealing with sustainable development issues, seeking necessary coordination with them.

24. In addition, the establishment of the secretariat support structure should be consistent with the need to make full use of existing resources and mechanisms, which in this case is both a virtue and a necessity given the complex nature of the CSD's tasks and the enormous demand they will place on its Secretariat. The arrangement should also lend itself to an integrated approach to environmental and developmental considerations. Its leadership should have enough authority for it to perform its functions effectively.

25. In light of the above, the CSD would be best served by a secretariat that is situated within the DESD. It should have its own identity and be headed by an authoritative official, preferably at the level of ASG. In staff recruitment and employment, the highest standard of competence should be maintained, with due regard to the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

26. The choice of the venue for the Secretariat should meet the following requirements: (1) access to the vast resource base of the HQs as well as the leadership of the Secretary General; (2) geographical proximity to major funding agencies and international financial institutions, which could benefit liaison and coordination; (3) consistency with the location of the CSD itself; and (4) the presence of missions from as many member states

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of the UN as possible, which would help ensure full and effective participation of particularly developing countries. It follows that New York may be the optimal option, coupled with a liaison office in Geneva.

27. The Secretariat should be in place as soon as possible after the formal establishment of the CSD in order to prepare for the first session of Commission, to be held in 1993. The SG could be asked to make such arrangements as may be necessary to this end.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

28. In order for the CSD to get down to its substantive work as early as possible, its rules of procedure should preferably be finalized before its first session. The task could be taken up by the ECOSOC at its organizational session in spring 1993. The GA at its current session can make a contribution, in accordance with Article 10 of the Charter.

III. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

29. Fundamentally, how far and how fast the policy recommendations, strategies, programmes and measures contained in Agenda 21 can materialize depends on the extent to which developed countries will make good their commitments to providing new and additional financial resources, including grant and concessionary financing, to developing countries. In fact, this is one of the cornerstones of the consensus that has emerged from the UNCED process. In this context, several issues are particularly important.

ADDITIONALITY

30. The financial resources to be provided by the developed countries to developing countries for development purposes should be "new and additional". This means that the financial resources for environmentally sound development programmes and projects in accordance with national development objectives, priorities and plans and for measures directed towards solving major environmental problems of global concern must be over and above the traditional ODA. The concern for environment should not lead to a redirection of existing ODA flows, which would compromise the availability of equally vitally needed funding for development activities in other fields. These are in the final analysis the different but mutually complementary, mutually supportive facets of sustainable development. In this respect, the UN and its organs, programmes, agencies and institutions should play an exemplary role.

31. To see that the foregoing eventualities will not transpire,

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the concept of additionality should be operationalized e.g., by virtue of guidelines or criteria for additionality that could be defined by the CSD, in close association and consultation with other relevant UN bodies and international financial institutions. These bodies and institutions could be asked to include in their reports to the CSD a measure-up vis-a-vis these guidelines or criteria of their respective financing efforts. The CSD should carry out periodic overall reviews.

CONDITIONALITY

32. The incorporation of environmental concerns and consideration in development planning and policies should not be used to introduce new forms of conditionality in aid or development financing. This principle was first espoused in the UNGA Res.44/228 and then reaffirmed in Agenda 21. The Secretary General, supported by the CSD Secretariat, could be asked to gather and analyze information in this regard, carry out necessary consultations within the framework of the ACC, and report thereon to the Commission, which could in turn make recommendations to member states as well as relevant international bodies and institutions.

AVAILABILITY

33. All considered, the availability and level of funding is the central aspect of the exercise. Despite the commitments undertaken at the UNCED, there are now legitimate concerns that funding at the requisite level may not be forthcoming any time soon.

34. In addition, there exists a discernible gap in the coverage of funding from major international financial institutions: if the GEF, whose current funding level is not nearly adequate, sticks to the present four global environmental areas it finances, and the proposal for an "Earth Increment" in IDA-10 falls through, the local and regional environmental problems of the developing countries will face the danger of being virtually left out. This prospect gives cause for concern and calls for immediate redress.

35. In such a context, the developed donor countries should be urged to make real their commitment to substantial new and additional resources by effecting a sizable "Earth Increment" to IDA in its 10th replenishment, and drastically increasing the resources of a restructured GEF in the forthcoming replenishment at the end of its pilot phase in 1993. It is equally important to channel new and additional financial resources to developing countries through the UN system.

INITIAL PLEDGES

36. The initial phase of implementing Agenda 21 would be accelerated by substantial early commitments of concessionary funding. On this basis, the Agenda requests the developed countries

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and others in a position to do so to report on their initial commitments to the present session of the UNGA. These countries are urged to do so. The Secretary General could be asked to compile a report on the subject, which should be submitted to the CSD for its consideration at its first session.

REVIEW PROCESS

37. Apart from yearly reviews at its regular sessions of progress in generating financial resources for the Agenda-21-related activities of the developing countries, the CSD should organize general reviews at the end/start of its organizational cycles (Part II). Such general reviews should include (a) an overall quantitative and qualitative assessment of the funding over the previous years; (b) the examination of the adequacy of financial mechanisms, inter alia, whether the heavy reliance on existing mechanisms has fulfilled the objective of maximizing the availability of financial resources for sustainable development; and (c) the elaboration and updating of mid-term plans, including targets where applicable, for future financing activities. In this connection, the CSD should also be given the discretionary power to initiate international conferences on financing for sustainable development when the need arises and the conditions are ripe.

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DELIVERY

THE CHALLENGE AFTER RIO**STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
TO OPEN THE DEBATE ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF UNCED
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 47TH SESSION****2 NOVEMBER 1992****Mr. President,****Excellencies,****Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I have looked forward to the opening of this debate.

It is an occasion to share with you my thinking on the United Nations as an agent of development. The report of the Conference on Environment and Development, ranging so widely over economic, social and environmental questions gives me my platform.

I shall also touch upon matters relating directly to the follow-up of that Conference, which is now in your hands.

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[1.]

In my first year of office, I have had the privilege of participating in three important United Nations events dealing with global development: the Cartagena Conference on Trade and Development, the Rio Conference on Environment and Development and the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council. I have taken part as well in the work of regional commissions.

My evaluation of these events - recently summed up in my Annual Report on the Work of the Organization - has strengthened my conviction of the potential of this institution. The Rio Earth Summit was an example of the capacity of the United Nations to mobilize political, public and institutional energies around key issues of global development. Only the United Nations could have achieved it; its potential is unique.

The challenge after Rio is to maintain the momentum of commitment to sustainable development, to transform it into policies and practice, and to give it effective and coordinated organizational support.

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[II.]

My conviction is sustained by my sense of the opportunity for constructive action created by the end of the "cold war". We can now work for an era of North-South cooperation that is not distorted by ideological and political East-West tensions. Peace and prosperity are indivisible but they are threatened by gross inequalities within and among nations. Balanced "planetary development" is not only an enlightened aim. It is a foundation for the enduring progress of all societies. Development cooperation must be carried forward on this basis. In parallel with technical and financial support to help the former planned economies in their transition.

This new era brings new intellectual and political challenges. While the command economy is discredited, the market economy has yet to achieve its potential. The market is an instrument of efficiency and of material growth. But development is more than growth; it is the improvement of human well-being.

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- 4 -

Economic growth is the mainspring of development.

But its thrust must be guided by equity, justice and social and ecological responsibility if development is to endure.

This, in my view, is the meaning behind "sustainable development".

This is the terrain for the new contest of ideas.

Many questions are open in democratic political discourse.

Even in richer market economies, social tensions and environmental degradation pose serious problems of governance.

In countries everywhere, the policies to deal simultaneously with unemployment, inflation, debt, and trade imbalances have proven elusive.

In the years of bipolar confrontation, it was easy to fall back on stereotypes. These now are irrelevant. Democracy and the market economy must not become mere slogans.

The new convergence on these forms brings with it an obligation to engage in sober analysis of successes and failures in orienting market forces, in different national conditions, towards democratically determined goals.

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- 1 -

It requires a renewed commitment to support developing countries in their efforts to build democratic, market-oriented societies. It requires a fresh look at the international environment in which such societies can flourish.

[III.]

This debate on the content of democratic governance and development, national and international, sets the context for a redefinition of the role of the United Nations in these spheres. This Organization must be a major source of ideas in this debate. It must be faithful to its mission, while adapting to evolving needs. Its perspective must be global, seeking out the common interests of the world community. It must be centred on people, their rights and their talents. It must highlight the unspoken concerns of the poor and the needs of future generations.

- 6 -

From such a perspective, the United Nations must bring the major issues to the Member States' attention. In its areas of competence, it must help them come to grips with the problems of these times. Member States, for their part, must work to keep alive the consensus that is unfolding from the special session of the General Assembly, through Cartagena and Rio, to ECOSOC. This consensus is a source of guidance and commitment to policy creation and organizational renewal.

I am convinced that this Organization can meet the twin challenges of substance and structure. The intellectual and managerial task is vast. But we are guided by the genius of the Charter, so rich, so flexible and yet so straightforward in its provisions for international economic and social cooperation.

This Organization must put its development objectives on a par with its political and security commitments. Intergovernmental bodies must promote policy coherence and programme coordination. And different types of programme activities - particularly analytical and operational activities - must support and reinforce each other.

- 7 -

Intergovernmental reform and Secretariat reform are two sides of a coin. Member States have their share of responsibility in this joint venture. It is for you to adopt consistent positions and take decisions on the reform of intergovernmental structures, for me only to urge expeditious action and to advise on its content.

I set great store on the continuing reform of ECOSOC.

I want to see it live up to its central responsibilities under the Charter. The Council, functioning intersessionally as needed, should address development issues that affect international security and bring them to the attention of the Security Council.

Integrated oversight is needed, through ECOSOC, of the governance and priorities of all funding programmes for development operations - including the amount and predictability of their financing.

The Commission on Sustainable Development should bolster the Council's efforts to promote coherence and coordination.

While the Council must respond to a diversity of interests among Member States, the logic of priority-setting must lead to thinning its undergrowth of subsidiary bodies.

There are now some forty bodies reporting directly to ECOSOC.

- 1 -

These are matters for decision by Member States.

But a contribution can be made by improvements in the functioning of the Secretariat. A more effective Secretariat can provide better service to Member States and to the intergovernmental machinery. It can also stimulate and facilitate the reform of that machinery. The process of streamlining intergovernmental structures should not hold up Secretariat reform. A revamped Secretariat can better serve the existing machinery, while awaiting the new.

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The Secretariat should not be compartmentalized by its legislative history or by the geography of the intergovernmental bodies it serves. All staff, whether in a department, a programme or a fund, must be unified under the authority of the Secretary-General. We must motivate, mobilize and integrate all analytical and operational capacities of the Secretariat, at Headquarters and in the field. Such steps will enable the Secretariat to exercise clearer leadership in the United Nations system and provide stronger support to Member States' needs.

[IV.]

In reviewing options for further reform of the Secretariat in the economic, social and environmental areas, I have personally sought advice from a panel of independent advisers. The stature of the panelists leaves me in no doubt of the value of their advice, which I have been taking into account as their work proceeds. I look forward to the results of their further work in the coming weeks.

- 10 -

The thoughts on further restructuring that I share with you today are advanced on my own responsibility. Restructuring and streamlining the Secretariat were among my main preoccupations on taking office. They will remain one of my main commitments throughout my tenure as Secretary-General. While reform has no natural stopping point, it should be concerted and systematic.

One of my key objectives is to build a unity of purpose for the economic, social and environmental sectors of the Organization. These have grown increasingly fragmented and compartmentalized. I will also take steps to strengthen linkages between those sectors and the political and humanitarian sectors of the Organization. The complex field operations in which the United Nations increasingly is engaged should practice an integrated approach to peace and development.

In previous restructuring efforts, as in the current one, a central concern has been to ensure adequate support for the Secretary-General's managerial and coordination responsibilities in the development sphere. Different models have been advanced, each with strengths and weaknesses. My intention is to address this issue from its roots.

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A prerequisite is that the Secretary-General devote the necessary time and personal attention to these responsibilities. I am committed to doing so and to obtaining the support that I need in this task from all quarters of the Secretariat.

My managerial strategy will be to define clearly those tasks for development and cooperation that should be carried out by the Organisation itself, within the system of specialized agencies and institutions. In the first instance, I am moving to determine those functions that should be carried out here at Headquarters. I shall then proceed to decisions on a more rational distribution of responsibilities between Headquarters and United Nations Centres in Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna, as well as among global, regional and field structures. The relocation of activities should provide a clearer purpose for each of the United Nations programmes, as well as sharpen the substantive focus of each of the Centres.

Clear lines of responsibility in a simpler structure, together with steps to eliminate duplication and overlapping, can go a long way to solve the problem of coordination. This can be my main contribution.

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(V.)

Bearing in mind these considerations, and the experience gained from the first phase of restructuring, I see three clusters of economic, social and environmental functions for Headquarters in New York. While there are different options for translating these sets of functions into organizational structures, this clustering necessarily entails a significant decentralization of activities away from Headquarters. At the same time, there may be a need for some redeployment to Headquarters.

The first cluster includes coordination and substantive support for the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development. The rationale for linking these two responsibilities stems from the broad coverage of "Agenda 21" and the Commission's terms of reference. Support for ECOSOC will relate to its functions of policy coordination and governance of operational activities. Support for the Commission and the follow-up to UNCED would be distinctly organized within this cluster.

- 13 -

The second cluster comprises data collection, methodology, policy analysis, and the articulation of development perspectives.

The Secretariat must be recognized as a centre of excellence for the analysis of development trends in all parts of the world, and their international interactions.

The proper elaboration of statistics and data - the essential foundation for economic and social analysis - is one of the riches of the United Nations. This collective asset must be preserved, strengthened and adapted to new needs. We must ensure wide access and dissemination, especially to countries with insufficient national capacities.

- 14 -

The third cluster involves technical cooperation.

This should be carried out from Headquarters only where there is clear comparative advantage in relation to the rest of the United Nations and the system as a whole.

It should focus on programmes that cut across regions and sectors, and on the least developed countries and those requiring special assistance programmes.

The central structures should also include a capacity to stimulate exchanges with sources of ideas and action proposals outside the United Nations and the governmental sphere.

Intellectual communities, citizens' associations and the corporate sector all have valuable contributions to make.

This was vividly demonstrated by UNCED. The United Nations must be open to the democratic forces of civil society, without losing its intergovernmental character.

- 15 -

[VI.]

Striking the right balance between Headquarters and other centres, on the one hand, and regional structures, on the other, is a key question. I believe that the balance has shifted too much to the centre. It is time to breathe new life into the regional commissions. They must become truly representative of the restructured Organization, while moving more clearly into the range of central oversight.

The strength of the regional commissions lies in their multi-disciplinary reach and in their ability to mediate between global and national activities. They too must operate within a coherent organizational strategy. They too need restructuring and streamlining to fit into this strategy and to respond to the changing needs of their regions.

We need a fresh look at the distribution of analytical and operational capacities between global and regional structures. Some redeployment to the latter is likely. For example, most technical advisory services could be more effectively delivered from the regions.

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Such decentralization would imply greater delegation of authority, as well as measures to ensure accountability.

[VN.]

Turning to the national level, I am determined to improve United Nations performance in the field. Teamwork is the key. We must move quickly to a single United Nations presence that would encompass Programmes under my direct authority, including UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDCP and WFP. This combined operation would carry out an integrated strategy in each country where the Organization operates. It would be headed by a United Nations Representative, appointed by the Secretary-General, who would also be the Resident Coordinator for the United Nations system. This would strengthen the function of the Resident Coordinator, in line with the expressed request of Member States.

We have made a start with unified representation in six countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. We have made progress with our ACC colleagues in an approach to common country strategies.

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These measures of integration need to be tested in practice and adapted in the light of experience. It is my hope that their success will make the case for the whole system to speak with one voice in the capitals of Member States.

1 VIII. 1

These ideas on clustering of Headquarters functions, decentralization and the organization of operational and field activities will need to be refined and translated into specific organizational arrangements. The further advice of the panel of experts on these questions will be of great value to my decisions.

(ix.)

Greater clarity and coherence will enhance the capacity of the Organization to promote policy coordination within the United Nations system. I stress again the importance I attach to the Administrative Committee on Coordination and to my relationship, as its Chairman, with the executive heads of all of the specialized agencies and institutions of the system. I will continue to give that role the time and attention it deserves.

- 10 -

The Committee has initiated a comprehensive analysis of its role and functioning, as well as a radical streamlining of its subsidiary machinery. This should enable the Committee to meet with new effectiveness the challenges of the times. Harnessing the capacity of the system to advance "Agenda 21" is such a challenge.

The concept of sustainable development, consecrated in Rio, can become an instrument of integration, giving coherence to diverse programme activities. "Agenda 21" itself offers a framework for coordinating the development activities of the whole United Nations system and for mobilizing organizations outside it.

[X.]

Let me now turn to my report on the follow-up to UNCED. It contains recommendations on the functioning of the Commission on Sustainable Development and on the High-Level Advisory Body on Sustainable Development, as well on related arrangements for inter-agency coordination and secretariat support.

- 19 -

In preparing this report, I followed closely the relevant recommendations in "Agenda 21" and sought to remain faithful to the spirit of the agreement reached in Rio.

I have already referred to secretariat support arrangements. I will direct my remarks to other aspects of my report.

It seems clear that the Governments assembled at Rio intended to place the Commission at the heart of arrangements to achieve sustainable development and keep alive the spirit of the Earth Summit. The mobilization of political will, intellectual leadership, and partnerships for sustainable development, will provide the necessary impetus. Let me address these three elements briefly.

In mobilizing political will, the Commission starts with a significant advantage. The results of UNCED have received the explicit endorsement of political leaders from all parts of the world.

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The Conference has produced internationally-accepted guidelines for the economic, social and ecological future of our planet.

This is a good beginning; we must ensure continuing political involvement in its follow-up. The Commission must be organized so that ministers will want to attend it. One of their continuing tasks will be to define and refine the strategies and policies needed to foster sustainable development.

They will also monitor and promote the financial flows, both bilateral and multilateral, needed to implement "Agenda 21" and to assist developing countries in their pursuit of sustainable development. High-level participation in the Commission is vital for success.

In exercising intellectual leadership, the Commission will build upon the conceptual breakthroughs embodied in "Agenda 21".

The transition to sustainability involves core issues of consumption patterns, poverty and demographic pressures.

The Commission's analysis should focus on these three elements, as a basis for organizing the assessment and further evolution of "Agenda 21".

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Support for the intellectual leadership of the Commission will come from the eminent persons participating in the High-Level Advisory Body on Sustainable Development. Their number must be kept relatively small - fifteen or so, in my view - to maximise opportunities for effective interaction and dialogue. They will bring wisdom and insights from the sciences, business and other non-governmental actors. I propose to concentrate available expertise in a single advisory body on environment and development, bearing in mind that the present membership of the Committee for Development Planning expires at the end of this year.

UNCED generated unprecedented public interest in many countries. This led to increased public awareness of the issues at stake. It stimulated a myriad of activities within countries and communities, notably by advocacy groups and educators. The UNCED process also stimulated important scientific and technical work by research institutions and professional organizations. And it engaged the involvement of representatives of the business community. All these non-governmental networks fed back into the Conference and enhanced its political and intellectual impact.

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The work of the Commission must continue to attract the partnership of these non-governmental constituencies. This, in turn, will serve to propagate the results of the Commission's work in the public dialogue on sustainable development.

UNCED involved a high degree of cooperation amongst all agencies and programmes of the United Nations system. A high-level, policy-oriented Commission on Sustainable Development will provide similar incentives for system-wide cooperation, especially if funding aspects are dealt with effectively.

The Administrative Committee on Coordination has established an Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development. Its membership for an initial two-year period will include the core group of the preceding ACC task force: FAO, UNESCO, WHO, World Bank, WMO, UNDP and UNEP. To these I have added ILO and IAEA. The Committee will be open to other members of ACC interested in specific issues on its agenda.

- 23 -

This Committee will be the principal source of assistance for the ACC in discharging its new responsibilities in the follow-up to Rio. Under my chairmanship, this will be a standing item on the ACC agenda.

I assure you that my ACC colleagues are as committed as I am to meeting fully the responsibilities that UNCED has placed upon us.

[XI.]

All people and societies aspire to development, as they do to peace, human rights and democracy. These fundamental values appear in all cultural visions of human well-being. They are four interdependent pillars of the United Nations Charter. Progress in one sphere supports that in the others. Yet in many cases - some now before this Assembly - those values are regressing, and human dignity and even human survival are under threat. As Secretary-General of the United Nations, I am determined to exercise leadership on all fronts and to fashion the Secretariat into an effective instrument for the achievement of the Charter's goals and for the service of the people in whose name those goals were set.

Permettez-moi de résumer les principaux points de cette réforme aussi ambitieuse que nécessaire d'une organisation, la nôtre, dont la fin de la guerre froide permettra peut-être de réaliser enfin l'immense potentiel. Nous savons tous que la paix et la prospérité sont indissociables; nous devons prendre garde qu'elles ne soient menacées par les inégalités au sein des nations et entre les nations.

L'ONU a un rôle unique à jouer à cet égard, à condition de relever le défi du changement au double plan des idées et de la structure. Et à condition, aussi, que les Etats Membres acceptent leurs responsabilités, car réforme du Secrétariat et réforme des organes intergouvernementaux sont les deux faces de la même réalité. A ce point de vue, j'attache une grande importance à la réforme de l'ECOSOC et à la rationalisation de ses multiples organes subsidiaires.

Reconstituer l'unité de dessin des secteurs économique, social et environnemental de l'ONU est au tout premier rang de mes priorités. Mais pour cela, deux conditions doivent être remplies. Premièrement, le Secrétaire général doit consacrer à ces secteurs le temps et l'attention personnelle nécessaires, ce que je m'engage ici à faire. Deuxièmement, il faut simplifier la structure, éliminer chevauchements et doubles emplois, rationaliser la répartition des responsabilités. Je m'attacherai donc à rationaliser la répartition des responsabilités entre d'une part le Siège de New York -- dont les activités seront concentrées autour de trois groupes de fonctions -- et les Centres de Genève, Nairobi et Vienne, et d'autre part les bureaux régionaux et les opérations sur le terrain.

Dans une perspective de décentralisation, je souhaite renforcer le rôle et accroître les responsabilités des Commissions économiques régionales tout en resserrant leurs liens avec le siège. Enfin, au niveau national, j'essaierai de mettre

en place une représentation unique de l'Organisation partout où cela sera possible.

Pour ce qui est de l'harmonisation des politiques au sein du système des Nations Unies, je ne saurais trop insister sur l'importance du Comité administratif de coordination, dont je continuerai de diriger les travaux avec le plus grand souci d'efficacité.

L'Agenda 21 nous offre un nouveau cadre général à l'intérieur duquel coordonner les activités de développement des Nations Unies et mobiliser les bonnes volontés extérieures qui ont tant contribué au succès de la Conférence de Rio sur l'Environnement et le Développement.

Je souhaite que la future Commission du développement durable bénéficie de la volonté politique, de la vigueur intellectuelle et de l'esprit de partenariat qui ont animé les travaux de Rio. Sur toutes ces questions, je serai assisté par un Comité consultatif de haut niveau sur le développement durable et par le Comité inter-institutions sur le développement durable que le Comité administratif de coordination vient de décider de créer.

CONCLUSION

Pour conclure, je tiens à réaffirmer ici que tous les individus et toutes les sociétés aspirent au développement, à la paix, à la jouissance des droits fondamentaux et à la démocratie. Ces valeurs essentielles sont présentes dans les différentes visions culturelles du bien-être humain et forment les quatre piliers de la Charte des Nations Unies. Elles sont étroitement interdépendantes, tout progrès de l'une favorisant le progrès des autres. Malheureusement, dans bien des cas — dont certains, hélas, ne sont que trop familiers à votre auguste Assemblée — il arrive que ces valeurs régressent jusqu'au point où la dignité, et même la vie humaine, en sont menacées.

À mon poste de Secrétaire général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, j'ai la ferme détermination de défendre ces valeurs sur tous les fronts, et de faire du Secrétariat un instrument efficace au service non seulement des buts et principes de notre Charte, mais aussi au service des peuples des Nations Unies qui l'ont adoptée.

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Institutional arrangements to follow-up the United Nations
conference on environment and development

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on June 3-14 1992 marked the beginning of an important new phase of international cooperation in development and environmental management, based on the recognition of the need for an integrated approach to all issues of environment and development. The Conference was unprecedented in the scope of its work, in the level of participation, in the scale of governmental and non-governmental involvement and the extent of public impact. In its final session the Conference adopted the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, a comprehensive programme of action called Agenda 21, and a set of principles/elements on forests ("The Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of all Types of Forests"). In addition, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity were opened for signature at the Conference.
2. Chapter 38 of Agenda 21 contains a comprehensive set of recommendations related to international institutional arrangements required to ensure effective follow-up to the Conference including the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national, regional and international levels. These decisions call for institutional arrangements that should be innovative in nature, while contributing to the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and the overall reform of the United Nations, including ongoing changes in the Secretariat.
3. The institutional arrangements to follow up UNCED should thus strengthen the role and potential of the United Nations, including the General Assembly

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and ECOSOC, in the interrelated fields of environment and development, so as to enable the Organization to respond effectively to the needs of the international community in these crucial areas.

4. The Conference, in paragraph 38.11 of Agenda 21, recommended that a high-level Commission on Sustainable Development be established in accordance with Article 68 of the Charter of the United Nations. This Commission would report to the Economic and Social Council in the context of the Council's role under the Charter vis-à-vis the General Assembly. It was further recommended in paragraph 38.12 that the General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, should determine specific organizational modalities for the work of the Commission, such as its membership, its relationship with other intergovernmental United Nations bodies dealing with matters related to environment and development, and the frequency, duration and venue of its meetings. Those modalities should take into account the ongoing process of revitalization and restructuring of the work of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in particular measures recommended by General Assembly resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992 and other relevant Assembly resolutions. In that connection, the Conference requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the assistance of the Secretary-General of UNCED, to prepare for the Assembly a report with appropriate recommendations and proposals.

5. In paragraphs 38.16 and 38.17 of Agenda 21, the Conference stated that effective monitoring, coordination and supervision of the involvement of the United Nations system in its follow-up required a coordination mechanism under the direct leadership of the Secretary-General. It recommended that this task be given to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), which would

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thus provide a vital link and interface between the multilateral financial institutions and other United Nations bodies at the highest administrative level. The Secretary-General was invited to continue to revitalize the functioning of the ACC.

6. In paragraph 38.18 of Agenda 21 the Conference stated that intergovernmental bodies, the Secretary-General and the United Nations system as a whole might benefit from the expertise of a high-level advisory board consisting of eminent persons knowledgeable about environment and development, including relevant sciences, appointed by the Secretary-General in their personal capacity. In that regard, the Secretary-General was invited to make appropriate recommendations to the 47th session of the General Assembly. It should be noted that related recommendations are contained in paragraphs 31.4(d) and 35.7(c) of Agenda 21.

7. The Conference also stated in paragraph 38.19 of Agenda 21 that a highly qualified and competent secretariat support structure within the United Nations Secretariat, drawing, inter alia, on the expertise gained in the UNCED preparatory process, was essential for the follow-up of the Conference and the implementation of Agenda 21. It recommended that this secretariat support structure should provide support to the work of both intergovernmental and inter-agency coordination mechanisms. It further recommended in paragraph 38.11 that this structure should provide support for the Commission on Sustainable Development.

8. The Conference also recommended in paragraph 38.44 of Agenda 21 that the General Assembly, at an early stage, should examine ways of enhancing the involvement of non-governmental organizations within the United Nations system

in relation to the UNCED follow-up process. In particular, it was recommended that procedures should be established for an expanded role for NGOs, including those related to major groups, with accreditation based on the procedures used at UNCED. Paragraph 38.11 recommends that the Commission on Sustainable Development should encourage the participation in its work of non-governmental organizations, including industry and the scientific and business communities. Related recommendations on the involvement of these organizations in the UNCED follow-up are contained in paragraphs 27.5 to 27.9 of Agenda 21.

9. Most of the recommendations outlined above require consideration and action by relevant United Nations intergovernmental bodies, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as by the Secretary-General and the Administrative Committee on Coordination. This report, prepared in accordance with the requests of UNCED, contains the proposals and recommendations of the Secretary-General on ways and means of organizing effective follow-up to UNCED at the intergovernmental, inter-agency and secretariat levels with a view to facilitating deliberations on this important subject during the 47th session of the General Assembly.

I. PROPOSALS ON PROCEDURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A. General observations on the functions and powers of Commissions established under Article 68 of the Charter

10. Article 68 of the Charter of the United Nations provides that the Economic and Social Council "shall set up commissions in economic and social fields and for the promotion of human rights". The Council is also empowered under this Article to set up "such other commissions as may be required for the performance of its functions". The term "commission" has generally been

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used to designate two types of bodies, namely the functional commissions, which may be established in order to assist the Economic and Social Council to perform its functions, and regional commissions, which have been entrusted by the Council with broad responsibilities to deal with economic and social problems of a regional character in specific areas of the world. The term Commission has been also used occasionally for the standing committees of ECOSOC, set up to assist the Council in various sectoral areas.

11. In general terms, commissions established under Article 68 of the Charter of the United Nations assist, advise and make recommendations and reports to the Council on matters within their competence ^{1/}. In the case under consideration, the far-reaching nature of the recommendations contained in Chapter 38 of Agenda 21, would suggest that the Commission on Sustainable Development should be established as a high-level forum for the comprehensive and in-depth consideration of all aspects of UNCED follow-up, and therefore be entrusted with the broad functions and powers needed to fulfil such a mandate.

B. Analysis of UNCED recommendations on the functions of the Commission on Sustainable Development

12. While the general tasks of the Commission on Sustainable development, as recommended in Agenda 21, are to "ensure effective follow-up of the Conference, as well as to enhance international cooperation and rationalize the intergovernmental decision-making capacity for the integration of environment and development issues and to examine the progress of the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national, regional and international

^{1/} For more information see Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs, and Supplements 1 to 4, Article 68, Part 1, Section C "Functions and Powers"

levels", specific functions are described in paragraphs 38.13 and 33.13 of Agenda 21 and include the following:

- a) To monitor progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and activities related to the integration of environmental and developmental goals throughout the United Nations system through analysis and evaluation of reports from all relevant organs, organizations, programmes and institutions of the United Nations system dealing with various issues of environment and development, including those related to finance;
- b) To consider information provided by governments, including, for example, in the form of periodic communications or national reports regarding the activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the problems they face, such as problems related to financial resources and technology transfer, and other environment and development issues they find relevant;
- c) To review the progress in the implementation of commitments contained in Agenda 21, including those related to provision of financial resources and transfer of technology;
- d) To receive and analyze relevant input from competent non-governmental organizations, including the scientific and the private sector, in the context of the overall implementation of Agenda 21;

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- e) To enhance the dialogue within the framework of the United Nations with the non-governmental organizations and the independent sector as well as other entities outside the United Nations system;
- f) To consider, where appropriate, information regarding the progress made in the implementation of environmental conventions which could be made available by the relevant Conferences of Parties;
- g) To provide appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the basis of an integrated consideration of the reports and issues related to the implementation of Agenda 21;
- h) To consider, at an appropriate time, the results of the survey to be conducted expeditiously by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of all UNCED recommendations for capacity-building programmes, information networks, task forces and other mechanisms to support the integration of environment and development at regional and sub-regional levels;
- i) To regularly review and monitor progress towards the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of Gross National Product for Official Development Assistance. It will be important to review on a regular basis the adequacy of funding and mechanisms to finance Agenda 21.

13. It can be seen from the recommendations outlined above that the Commission would have broad functions related to virtually all conceptual and

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practical aspects of evolving international interaction amongst governments, intergovernmental institutions, and non-governmental organizations and constituencies in the area of sustainable development. It seems to be particularly important for the Commission to integrate monitoring, review and analysis of the programmatic aspects of the implementation of Agenda 21 at the international, regional and national levels, as well as the means of such implementation, particularly those related to finance. Though all of those functions are closely interrelated, conceptually they can be divided into five broad categories:

- a) functions related to review and analysis of progress in the implementation of the decisions of the Conference, including Agenda 21 and commitments contained therein, particularly those related to finance and transfer of technology;
- b) functions related to the review of funding and funding mechanisms;
- c) functions related to the roles of intergovernmental organizations and their respective responsibilities in achieving the goals of sustainable development;
- d) functions related to the consideration of information provided by national Governments and regional organizations;
- e) functions related to progress made in the implementation of relevant legal instruments and consideration of new instruments in areas not covered by existing ones.

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14. The Commission's review of the implementation of Agenda 21 could also include the application, and where necessary, the further elaboration of general principles related to rights and obligations in the area of environment and development, as contained in the Rio Declaration.

15. It would also seem important not to limit intergovernmental work to the review of progress achieved in implementing Agenda 21 and to the consideration of problems that may arise and ways to overcome them, but also to keep Agenda 21 itself under review with a view to adjusting and updating it as may be necessary in the light of economic, financial, technological, scientific, legal and other developments. This would reinforce the dynamic and adaptable character of Agenda 21 as a long-term framework for action by the international community and coordination of relevant activities of international organizations.

C. Membership

16. The Conference, in paragraph 38.11 of Agenda 21, recommended that the Commission should consist of representatives of States elected as its members with due regard to equitable geographical distribution. It further recommended that representatives of non-member States of the Commission should have observer status. It should be noted that, in accordance with rule 24 of the Rules of procedure of ECOSOC, the Council defines the composition of its subsidiary bodies. The membership of the various commissions of the Council ranges from 24 to 53 members. Members of the Commission will be elected by the Council, and may, in accordance with the United Nations practice, be elected from amongst States that are members of the United Nations, or States that are members of the United Nations, its Specialized Agencies and the IAEA.

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17. It is obviously desirable to secure the involvement of as many Governments as possible in the economic, social and developmental work of the United Nations. This objective is best pursued in relation to the totality of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies (the final structure and composition of which will be affected by the on-going debate on governance in the General Assembly) with different considerations guiding the determination of the optimum size of each of these bodies. In the case of the Commission on Sustainable Development, a key consideration will be to maintain the political momentum achieved at Rio, through the highest level of participation and a format which maximizes the prospects for effective dialogue among high-level participants. This set of considerations would seem to militate in favor of a limited size for the composition of the Commission, subject of course to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. (paragraph 32 below is also relevant in this context)

D. Programme and organization of work

18. The multidisciplinary character and time-frame of Agenda 21 require the elaboration of a flexible multi-year programme of work for the Commission which will provide a framework to assess progress achieved in its implementation and, in the light of the considerations outlined in paragraph 15 of this report, its further development and updating as might be required, taking into account major international developments affecting issues related to environment and development. Under such a programme, some Agenda 21 components could be considered on an annual basis, while others could be reviewed once every two or more years.

19. Since the sectoral programmes in Agenda 21 will be under review in relevant sectoral forums, the primary task of the review by the Commission on Sustainable Development must be in-depth evaluation, focusing on linkages with other sectoral and cross-sectoral issues. At each session some sectoral issues would be taken up for in-depth evaluation on the basis of the agreed multi-year review programme. The basic outline of the programme could be considered at the Commission's first substantive session in 1993 on the basis of proposals to be made by the Secretary-General.

20. In order to enable the Commission to discharge its functions effectively its work might be divided into segments. Three to four 2/ review segments and a high-level policy segment could be envisaged. The review segments could be devoted to: a) consideration of issues of implementation of various Chapters/components of Agenda 21 at the international level on the basis of a multi-year review programme; b) consideration of information provided by national governments and regional organizations; c) consideration of progress in the implementation of relevant legal instruments and elaboration of future instruments; d) consideration of issues related to financing of Agenda 21 and transfer of technology. Irrespective of the number of such segments, it will be important to plan and articulate the work programmes of the segments in such a way as to ensure an integrated approach to the implementation of all chapters of Agenda 21.

21. The High-level Policy Segment should be attended by ministers and high-level policy-makers with responsibility in respect of environment and development and should provide an opportunity to review overall progress in

2/ Different numbers of segments could be organized during particular sessions of the Commission.

the implementation of commitments contained in Agenda 21, including those related to the provision of financial resources and transfer of technology, and resolve outstanding issues resulting from the work of the various segments. At the same time, it should be future oriented and contribute to further development and updating of UNCED recommendations in the light of progress achieved and new developments. In that context, it would evolve appropriate recommendations on the future orientation of work on sustainable development.

22. As an integral part of its functions, the High-level Policy Segment of the Commission should seek to provide a contribution to the High-level Segment of ECOSOC, particularly by identifying priorities and/or emerging issues related to sustainable development, thereby contributing to the selection of major themes to be addressed at the High-level Segment.

23. The Commission may elect a Bureau consisting of a Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom would also act as Rapporteur, coming from each of the regional groups. Accordingly, the Chairperson might conduct the opening and concluding meetings of the Commission as well as the high-level policy segment, while the Vice-Chairpersons might chair the review segments. The outcome of the segments would take the form of conclusions and recommendations emerging from proposals made by the Secretary-General, members of the Commission and the discussions held.

E. Rules of Procedure

24. Subsidiary bodies set up by the Economic and Social Council, with the exception of regional commissions, normally operate under the Rules of

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Procedure of the Council 3/. Distinct Rules of Procedure have been established for the Functional Commissions of ECOSOC and their subsidiary bodies 4/. In principle, Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure of ECOSOC allows its subsidiaries to operate under their own rules of procedure to be drawn up by the Council, or, if it so decides, by the subsidiary organ itself.

25. Should the need arise, the Commission could arrange for ad hoc inter-sessional working groups, with a view to ensuring an in-depth analysis of issues of major importance and/or preparing relevant recommendations for any of the segments of the Commission. Inter-sessional meetings of the bureau could also be convened for these purposes.

F. Frequency, duration and venue of meetings

26. The calendar of meetings of ECOSOC and its subsidiaries should be so arranged as to enable the Commission to take into account and, as appropriate, analyze relevant aspects of the work of the concerned inter-governmental organizations, particularly the Governing Councils of UNEP and UNDP, and at the same time to enable the Commission to report to the annual substantive session of ECOSOC. Under such a rearranged calendar, the Commission might meet annually for a period of two to three weeks. It could also, as required, hold meetings of particular segments and/or sub-groups inter-sessionally.

27. During the Conference, most participants who addressed the issue of possible venues for the sessions of the Commission, took the view that it

3/ Document E/5715/Rev.1

4/ Document E/5975/Rev.1

should meet either in Geneva, or in New York. It may be preferable for the Commission's regular sessions usually to be held at a UN Headquarters in view of the practical advantages that such venues would offer. The Commission's sessions could also alternate between Geneva and New York, as in the case of the Governing Council of UNDP and ECOSOC.

G. Participation of Inter-governmental organizations

28. Special procedures were followed for the participation and involvement of intergovernmental organizations in the preparations for UNCED and at the Conference itself 5/. In the light of that experience, Agenda 21 in paragraph 38.11 recommends that the Commission on Sustainable Development "should provide for active involvement of organs, programmes and organizations of the UN system, international financial institutions and other relevant intergovernmental organizations".

29. In the light of these recommendations it seems important to ensure that the representatives of various parts of the United Nations, international organizations, both inside and outside the UN system, including international financial institutions and GATT, regional development banks, and relevant regional and sub-regional intergovernmental economic and technical cooperation organizations be enabled not only to participate as observers in the work of the Commission and make statements on their activities at its sessions, as they normally do in UN intergovernmental organs, but also to play an active part in the deliberations, in an advisory capacity. Such an enhanced dialogue

5/ These included the General Assembly's decision on the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee for UNCED, to provide for the full participation of the European Economic Community in the Conference.

between representatives of Governments and international organizations should make the deliberations of the Commission more substantive and action-oriented and also contribute to the strengthening of inter-governmental and inter-agency coordination of relevant activities.

H. Participation of non-governmental organisations

30. Agenda 21 in paragraph 38.11 recommends that the Commission on Sustainable Development should encourage the participation of NGOs, including industry, business and scientific communities. It further recommends in paragraph 38.44 that "procedures should be established for an expanded role for non-governmental organizations, including those related to major groups, with accreditation based on the procedures used in UNCED".

31. The procedures for the accreditation and participation of NGOs contributed greatly to the success of UNCED. The General Assembly, drawing on this experience, may wish to formulate guidelines for more active participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies in line with paragraph 38.44 of Agenda 21. In that light, and in line with paragraph 38.11 of Agenda 21, suitable draft rules of procedure could, in the first instance, be prepared for enhanced participation by NGOs in the work of the Commission. These could be submitted for consideration by ECOSOC at the Organizational Session in 1993 or at an earlier special meeting of the Council formally establishing the Commission. (In this connection, see also Section I. Informal arrangements and Chapter III - High-level Advisory Body, below)

I. Informal arrangements

32. The above procedures could be complemented by informal arrangements in order to enhance dialogue among the Ministers participating in the Commission's sessions, as well as between governmental participants and NGOs. In relation to the former, a one-day informal round-table, restricted to Ministerial-level participants, could be held, following the working segments, to facilitate preparations for the High-level Segment including by providing advice and views which could assist in resolving any outstanding difficulties. Informal arrangements should also be made to enhance collaboration with the relevant non-governmental organizations, including the scientific community, the private sector and women's groups. This would include developing further channels of communication with non-governmental organizations during inter-sessional periods, and arrangements to draw in a systematic way on the findings of relevant non-governmental organizations and their experience in implementation of Agenda 21 and in the preparation of reports for the Commission.

J. Relationship with the General Assembly, ECOSOC and their subsidiary bodies

33. Agenda 21 in paragraph 38.12 recommends that the organizational modalities for the Commission should take into account the ongoing process of revitalization and restructuring of the work of the United Nations in economic, social and related fields, in particular measures recommended by the General Assembly in resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992 and other relevant Assembly resolutions. Similar recommendations are contained in paragraphs 38.2 and 38.8 of Agenda 21.

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34. In order to serve as the focal point of intergovernmental decision-making for the integration of environment and development issues within the UN, the Commission should build its work on that of all appropriate sectoral intergovernmental subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and ECOSOC that address issues related to sustainable development, and elaborate on that basis comprehensive and coherent policy recommendations to the Council and, through it, to the General Assembly. Thus, a clear division of responsibilities between the Commission and the above mentioned bodies, as well as the establishment of optimal reporting patterns are essential.

35. The Commission should draw in particular upon the activities of UNEP and UNDP as well as UNCTAD which, in accordance with Agenda 21 should play a crucial role in UNCED follow-up. In the implementation of the Conference outcome, in particular Agenda 21, there will be need for close interaction between the Commission and the Governing bodies of these Programmes in a way that is mutually reinforcing.

36. A number of other subsidiary bodies have a clear mandate vis-à-vis certain chapters of Agenda 21 (e.g. the Population Commission, the Commission of Science and Technology for Development, the Statistical Commission and the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy for Development). Provision should be made to ensure an effective interaction between these bodies and the Commission. Other components of the ECOSOC subsidiary machinery also have a role to play in the follow-up to UNCED. It will be necessary to review and adjust the bi-annual work-plans of all subsidiary bodies in order to respond to Agenda 21 requirements and to focus more sharply on the evolving concept of sustainable development. More generally, the establishment and terms of reference of the Commission should be taken into account in the further review

of the structures of ECOSOC in the context of the revitalization of the Council.

37. It will also be essential to organize effective interaction between the Commission and ECOSOC itself, particularly with a view to avoiding repetitive debates on sustainable development. The role of the Commission would be to ensure in-depth consideration of all issues related to the implementation of Agenda 21 and to provide advice and policy recommendations to the Council and through it to the General Assembly. The Council would, in turn, provide an opportunity for integrating the results of the work of the Commission with a broader range of issues on the Council's agenda, including operational activities, and humanitarian and emergency relief. The Commission's recommendations on the implementation of Agenda 21 by intergovernmental organizations both within and outside UN system would in particular assist the Council in effectively discharging its Charter functions related to system-wide coordination in general, as well as its specific responsibilities for over-seeing and directing "system-wide coordination and integration of environmental and development aspects of United Nations programmes" as envisaged in paragraph 38.10 of Agenda 21.

38. In order to optimize the division of labour between the Council and the Commission, particularly regarding the role and functions of their high-level segments, and taking into account paragraph 38.10 of Agenda 21, the following arrangements could be envisaged:

- a) Examination by ECOSOC of the report of the Commission focusing, in particular, on the conceptual integration of the Commission's work with other issues on the Council's agenda;

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- b) Consideration of relevant results of the work of the Commission related to implementation of Agenda 21 by international organizations in the course of ECOSOC's coordination segment;
- c) Periodic general overview of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the work of the Commission within ECOSOC's High-Level segment, focusing on priorities, new and/or emerging issues, major problem areas, etc.;
- d) Modalities should be developed to synchronize in an optimal way the future programme of work of the Commission, including its high-level segment, with the multi-year work programme of the Council and major policy themes to be considered during the Council's high-level segments, with a view to ensuring effective interaction and avoiding duplication.

39. It will also be important to ensure effective consideration of relevant issues in the General Assembly itself. The reports of the Commission will be brought to its attention in the context of the annual reports of ECOSOC. In deciding how the General Assembly should take up the reports of the Commission, the need to avoid duplication and/or repetition in the debates should be carefully considered. The various aspects of Agenda 21 fall within the competence of the Second, Third and Sixth Committees of the Assembly. For that reason, it was decided that, at the current session, the UNCED follow-up should be taken up in Plenary.

40. Agenda 21, in paragraph 38.9, recommends that the General Assembly itself, as the principal policy-making and appraisal organ, consider the

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timing, format and organizational aspects of a review of the implementation of Agenda 21. It further recommends that the Assembly should consider holding a special session no later than 1997 for the purposes of overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21, with adequate preparations at a high level. Proposals on this matter could be the subject of a report by the Secretary-General for presentation at a future session of the Assembly.

41. All of the above considerations point to the special importance of ensuring that the General Assembly, in acting on the issues raised in this section of the report, take into full account ongoing discussions on the role of the United Nations in enhancing international cooperation for development and on the revitalization of ECOSOC, so that the Commission may fit harmoniously in the UN intergovernmental machinery addressing various aspects of environment and development and contribute to rationalizing the decision-making capacity in this area. It would seem particularly important in this context, bearing in mind the on-going process of revitalization of ECOSOC, including current discussions on the governance of operational activities, that the General Assembly should allow for a measure of flexibility, so as to be in a position to introduce further modifications, including adjustments in the composition, working methods and procedures of the Commission and its relationship with other subsidiary bodies, which may be required in the light of developments.

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K. Issues that may be considered at the first session of the Commission

42. UNCED recommended that the first session of the Commission should be convened no later than 1993. This session will have a number of organizational issues to resolve, including the composition of its Bureau, the format and other modalities of its future programme of work.

43. In the context of the segments referred to earlier, the Commission may wish to consider:

- a) The format and process for the review and monitoring of Agenda-21, particularly the provisions relating to finance and technology transfer.
- b) The format and process for the review of funding and funding mechanisms and the way in which financial institutions can be brought into this process.
- c) The format and process for the consideration of information provided by conferences of parties to conventions/legal agreements.
- d) The format and process for the consideration of information provided by national governments and regional organizations.
- e) Elaboration of a programme of substantive work required in order to support the deliberations of the Commission, particularly with

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regard to the need to maintain an orientation towards the future development of Agenda 21.

44. The Commission may also wish to give further consideration, as required, to specific modalities and procedures for the participation in its work process of the members of the high-level advisory board, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations.

II. INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS TO FOLLOW-UP UNCED AND THE ROLE OF ACC.

45. The implementation of Agenda 21 will require an unprecedented level of cooperation not only between nations but also between international organizations both within and outside the United Nations system. Agenda 21 itself underscores the need for strengthening inter-agency coordination and close and effective cooperation with other international organizations and financial institutions as an important prerequisite for an effective follow-up to UNCED.

46. In more specific terms, paragraph 38.4 of Agenda 21 states that "all agencies of the United Nations system have a key role to play in the implementation of Agenda 21 within their respective competence. To ensure proper coordination and avoid duplication in the implementation of Agenda 21, there should be an effective division of labour between various parts of the United Nations system based on their terms of reference and comparative advantages". Paragraph 38.1 states that the General Assembly being the supreme policy-making forum would provide overall guidance to the United Nations system. Paragraph 38.10 entrusts the Economic and Social Council, in

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the context of its Charter role, with the tasks of overseeing and directing system-wide coordination.

47. Specific objectives of Chapter 38 include, inter alia, the need to strengthen cooperation and coordination on environment and development in the UN system, the need to establish effective cooperation and exchange of information between the UN organs, organizations, programmes and multilateral financial bodies, and the need to ensure clear division of responsibilities and avoidance of duplication in the UN system. As also indicated in chapter IV below, the Secretary-General is currently reviewing Secretariat arrangements for programme review and/or coordination, taking into account inter-alia requirements for the implementation of Agenda 21, to ensure that they are consistent with and supportive of such implementation.

48. In line with paragraph 38.16, Agenda 21 should provide the principal framework for coordination of the activities within the UN system to integrate environment and development. To give effect to this recommendation, Member-States should ensure that all concerned parts of the UN system adopt concrete programmes for the implementation of Agenda 21 and make arrangements for reporting on their relevant activities. In this connection the need for "serious and continuous reviews of their policies, programmes, budgets and activities" is underlined in paragraph 38.4. In the same context, paragraph 38.28 of Agenda 21 recommends that the Governing bodies of UN specialized agencies and related Organizations consider readjusting their activities and programmes in line with Agenda 21.

49. Paragraphs 38.15 and 38.16 recognize the crucial importance of "strong and effective leadership on the part of the Secretary-General", as "the focal

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point of the institutional arrangements within the United Nations system for the successful follow-up to the Conference and for the implementation of Agenda 21". They also emphasize the need for a coordination mechanism "under the direct leadership of the Secretary-General" to ensure effective monitoring, coordination and supervision of the involvement of the United Nations system in the follow-up to the Conference.

50. The same section of chapter 38 on inter-agency coordination calls on all heads of agencies and institutions of the UN system to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General in order to make ACC work effectively in fulfilling its crucial role and ensure the successful implementation of Agenda 21. It also recommends that the ACC should consider establishing a special task force, subcommittee or a board on implementation of Agenda 21, taking into account the experience of the DOEM and CIDIE, as well as the respective roles of UNEP and UNDP. Moreover, the need for inter-agency coordination arrangements related to the implementation of various sectoral and cross-sectoral objectives of Agenda 21 is highlighted in a number of its Chapters.

51. In the light of the above provisions, the Secretary-General immediately following the Conference, established an Ad Hoc Task-Force of the ACC, chaired by the Director-General of FAO, with a view to preparing proposals, for consideration by the Second Regular session of the ACC of 1992 (20-21 October 1992), on how the interactions within the UN system for the implementation of Agenda 21 could best be organized. Upon recommendation of this Task-Force, the Administrative Committee on Coordination has now decided to establish an Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD), to identify major policy issues relating to the follow-up of UNCED by the United Nations system and advise the ACC on ways and means of addressing them so as to ensure

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effective cooperation and coordination of the UN system in the implementation of Agenda 21. To this effect the IACSD will:

- a) in the light of the guidance and instructions received from the ACC, examine information regarding the implementation of Agenda 21 provided by the United Nations system organizations, relevant subsidiary bodies of the ACC and non-ACC coordinating bodies, and identify for ACC overall policy issues, major gaps and constraints affecting United Nations system cooperation in the UNCED follow-up;
- b) formulate, for consideration and decision by the ACC, recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system in the implementation of Agenda 21;
- c) on the basis of a) and b) above, prepare brief reports identifying issues and making recommendations on overall policy and coordination, for decision by the ACC; these reports should be prepared in such a way as to provide a basis for subsequent reports of the ACC to the relevant intergovernmental bodies (as required by paragraph 38.17 of Agenda 21);
- d) perform other tasks as required by the ACC including, where appropriate, monitoring follow-up of relevant ACC decisions.

52. The Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development will have participation at the level of senior officials from a core number of ACC

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members. These will include the organizations which provided the core membership of the Ad Hoc Task Force of ACC referred to above - FAO, UNESCO, WHO, World Bank, WMO, UNDP and UNEP - and two additional members designated by the Secretary-General - ILO and IAEA. This composition will be reviewed by ACC after two years. Meanwhile, the Inter-agency Committee will remain open to all members of ACC interested in specific issues placed on the agenda of its session. The Committee's chairperson will be designated by the Secretary-General, after consultation with ACC members.

53. At the same session, ACC undertook an overall review of its own functioning and that of the ACC machinery with a view to enhancing overall inter-agency coordination and simplifying and rationalizing the structures and methods of work of its subsidiary bodies. As a contribution to that process, ACC further decided that the IACSD, with the help of the secretariat support structure, referred to in Section IV below, should launch a process utilizing inter-agency consultations to assist ACC to: streamline the inter-agency coordinating machinery; allocate and share responsibilities for the implementation of Agenda 21 by the UN system; monitor new and additional financing requirements of the UN system organizations related to Agenda 21, taking into account the decisions of their governing bodies; and assess related reporting requirements and make recommendations on their streamlining. The IACSD was requested to submit a progress report on the implementation of this decision to the April 1993 session of the ACC.

54. The Administrative Committee also decided to place a standing item relating to UN system follow-up to UNCED on the ACC agenda. The coordination machinery within ACC for UNCED follow-up will thus comprise: the ACC itself,

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the new IACSD, and the streamlined ACC subsidiary machinery, which will ensure complementarity and synergy at technical and working levels.

55. Further details on these institutional arrangements as well as the ACC's conclusions on principles and guidelines for the allocation and sharing of responsibilities within the United Nations system for the implementation of Agenda 21, and enhanced cooperation between the multilateral funding institutions and other United Nations system organizations, are set out in a statement adopted by ACC which is being submitted to the General Assembly in a separate addendum to this document.

56. The Secretary-General will further report to the Commission on Sustainable Development on the results of future discussions and action within the Administrative Committee regarding system-wide coordination arrangements for the implementation of Agenda 21.

III. HIGH-LEVEL ADVISORY BODY ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

57. Paragraph 38.18 of Agenda 21 states that intergovernmental bodies, the Secretary-General and the United Nations system as a whole may benefit from the expertise of a high-level advisory board consisting of eminent persons knowledgeable about environment and development, including relevant sciences, appointed by the Secretary-General in their personal capacity.

58. The main task of such a board would be to provide high-level expert advice to the Secretary-General and to assist him in formulating proposals for the ACC and the Commission on Sustainable Development.

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59. The Secretary-General considers that this Board should consist of eminent persons broadly representative of all regions of the world, with recognized expertise on the broad spectrum of issues to be dealt by the Commission on Sustainable Development, including Agenda 21. Its membership would consist of 15-25 persons, drawn from relevant scientific disciplines, industry, finance and other major non-governmental constituencies, as well as various disciplines related to environment and development. Due account should also be given to gender balance. The Board should enable the Secretary-General to have access to a wide range of independent expertise, including that available in national, regional and global institutes, as well as to the perspective of major constituencies and professions. He would solicit its advice, as the need arises. Members of the Board might also, on request, take part in the sessions of the Commission, particularly its High-level Policy Segment, to provide expert advice.

60. The Secretary-General is concerned with the possible overlap between the functions of the Board as outlined above, and the Committee for Development Planning (CDP) which was established by ECOSOC in 1966 to assess world development trends and prospects and to formulate recommendations in the areas of development and international economic cooperation. Since the areas covered in the work of CDP and the type of expertise available in its membership are potentially similar to those of the High-level Advisory Board, the Secretary-General would propose that a single body should be established to provide high-level advice on all questions relating to environment and development. Accordingly, and subject to the views of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General intends to submit a proposal for membership of the High-level Advisory Board, keeping in mind the membership and terms of reference of the CDP, at the organizational session of ECOSOC in 1993.

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IV. SECRETARIAT SUPPORT STRUCTURE

61. The Conference stated in paragraph 38.19 of Agenda 21 that "a highly qualified and competent secretariat support structure within the United Nations Secretariat, drawing, inter alia, on the expertise gained in the UNCED preparatory process, is essential for the follow-up of the Conference and the implementation of Agenda 21". It recommended that this secretariat support structure should provide support to the work of both intergovernmental and inter-agency coordination mechanisms. It further recommended in paragraph 38.11 that this structure should provide support for the Commission on Sustainable Development.

62. The Secretary-General fully shares the emphasis placed by the Conference on the need for the Commission on Sustainable Development and the inter-agency coordination mechanisms to rely upon adequate and competent secretariat support. In the period ahead, a vast amount of conceptually difficult work will need to be carried out within the entire UN system to analyze thoroughly existing and planned programmes of work, review current policies, budgets and activities, and elaborate proposals for Governing bodies as to how they can be adjusted to meet UNCED objectives.

63. Thus, substantive follow-up to UNCED will need to be conducted from an identifiable focal point within the United Nations Secretariat which would assist the Secretary-General in coordinating the implementation of the decisions taken in Rio and enhance inter-agency cooperation and collaboration in environment and development throughout the UN system. This secretariat unit will also be responsible for providing substantive secretariat support for the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Inter-Agency

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Committee on Sustainable Development of the ACC. To these ends it would have the following set of functions:

- a) To monitor and analyze information on the progress made in the implementation of Agenda 21 at the international level achieved by relevant international organizations, financial and development institutions and mechanisms;
- b) To gather and analyze information with a view to assisting the Commission on Sustainable Development in monitoring and assessing progress made towards the achievement of the commitments contained in Agenda 21, particularly those related to finance and technology;
- c) To collect and assess information provided by States and regional and sub-regional organizations with a view to analyzing the main trends and progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national and regional levels;
- d) To collect and analyze information on the progress made in the implementation of relevant legal instruments and, as the need may arise, for the consideration of new instruments in areas not covered by existing ones;
- e) To collect and analyze contributions from non-governmental organizations, including the scientific and business communities;

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- f) On the basis of the functions outlined above, to undertake required studies and formulate appropriate recommendations aimed at enabling the Commission on Sustainable Development to give general policy guidance to the implementation of the objectives and proposals for action adopted in Rio;
- g) To provide a focal point for the ACC subsidiary mechanism on sustainable development, for the coordination and harmonization of UN system-wide activities related to the implementation of UNCED recommendations, in particular the implementation of Agenda 21;
- h) To ensure effective coordination of the activities of the various parts of the United Nations system related to planning and programming for the implementation of Agenda 21, with a view to achieving optimal division of labour and responsibilities and avoiding duplication, building on the experience of a working party approach developed during the UNCED preparatory process;
- i) To provide support for the high-level advisory board on sustainable development and liaison with its members;
- j) To establish and maintain effective liaison with international organizations and financial institutions outside the United Nations system dealing with sustainable development issues, as well as with the secretariats of the relevant conventions;
- k) To serve as a focal-point for Governments on all matters related to UNCED follow-up and the work of the Commission;

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- 1) To continue, taking into account the experience gained and procedures developed during the UNCED preparatory process, to develop liaison and interaction with non-governmental organizations active in the area of environment and development on issues related to the work of the Commission and UNCED follow-up;
- m) To disseminate information, in cooperation with DPI, to the general public and mass-media regarding the UNCED follow-up process with a view to maintaining and enhancing the high level of public awareness created by the Rio Conference about sustainable development issues.

64. As indicated in the Foreword to the Secretary-General's Report on Enhancing International Cooperation for Development and the Role of the United Nations System (E/1992/82/Add.1), and reiterated in his annual Report on the Work of the Organization (A/47/1) as well as in the Report on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors (A/47/_____) before the General Assembly, the Secretary-General is currently engaged in a comprehensive review of secretariat structures in the economic and social field, with a view to further rationalizing them and achieving a more effective Organization-wide distribution of responsibilities. The aim is to enhance the quality and coherence of the support provided by the Secretariat to central intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social field, including support for current reform efforts, and to improve the effectiveness of overall secretariat activities relating to data gathering and research on the one hand and operational activities on the other.

65. The requirements for secretariat support for the follow-up to UNCED, as well as the experience gained in the first phase of the reorganization, and

the consequential adjustments to be introduced in the structures put in place in that phase, are among the main factors being taken into account in the review.

66. Pending the outcome of this review, the Secretary-General is not in a position to set out in precise terms in the present report, his conclusions as to the specific location within the Secretariat of institutional arrangements for the follow-up to UNCED. The Secretary-General intends to do so, and to provide an indication of specific staffing implications, later during the current session of the General Assembly.

67. Meanwhile, the following are some of the main considerations underlying the Secretary-General's approach to the matter. Firstly, the Secretary-General appreciates the Conference's recognition of the importance of avoiding viewing institutional arrangements for the follow-up to UNCED in isolation from the current revitalization and reform efforts, and of addressing instead secretariat support in this broad area "in the context of current and ongoing restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat" as specified in Agenda 21. In the same light, the Secretary-General shares the emphasis placed by the Conference on making the "optimum use of existing resources". Finally, the Secretary-General attaches the utmost importance to ensuring that such secretariat support should meet the highest standards of competence, including through equitable gender balance, as defined in the Charter.

68. On the basis of these general considerations, an appropriate balance must be achieved between two key objectives. One is to ensure that the new institutional arrangements give the important issue of sustainable development the visibility it deserves within the overall structures of the Organization. The other, is to see to it that these arrangements are innovative and do not

detract from, but rather contribute to, a clearer distribution of responsibilities within the secretariat and to the overall coherence of secretariat support for central intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social field.

69. The above considerations as well as the observations in paragraphs 33 to 41 above, concerning the relationship between the Commission on Sustainable Development, ECOSOC and other United Nations intergovernmental bodies, would suggest the desirability of a single streamlined structure which would provide a common framework for the provision of overall support to ECOSOC on the one hand, and secretariat follow-up to UNCED on the other. These inter-related functions focus on the analysis and synthesis of inputs and the provision of support for central coordinating, policy-review and policy-making functions. By placing them under common direction, a synergy should be created, which would contribute to both efficiency and overall policy coherence.

70. The most appropriate structural arrangements for other sets of functions in the economic and social fields, relating to data gathering and research on the one hand, and operational activities on the other, are still under consideration, as an integral part of the current phase of Secretariat restructuring. The Secretary-General will revert to these issues - including ways of achieving a better balance between functions performed at Headquarters and those that can best be carried out by the regional commissions and the concerned United Nations Programmes - later in the session.

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Institutional arrangements to follow-up the United Nations
conference on environment and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

ACC Statement to the General Assembly

The Administrative Committee on Coordination decided to address the following statement to the General Assembly for its consideration during its deliberations on the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development:

1. The ACC is mindful that meeting the unprecedented and daunting challenges involved in achieving sustainable development will require special efforts from the entire international community. It recognizes that only the UN system is able to provide the appropriate global framework for action at international, regional, national and local levels. It further recognizes that implementation of Agenda 21 means tackling complex inter-sectoral problems; this will require greater coherence at inter-governmental and inter-agency levels, and a better interface between them as well as with non-governmental organizations.
2. The ACC is also mindful that its consideration of UN system follow-up to UNCED is taking place within a context in which parallel developments, as yet incomplete, leave a number of unknowns. These developments include: (i) the ACC's own review of its subsidiary machinery; (ii) the proposals of the Secretary-General on organizational arrangements for the CSD, its secretarial support structure, and the high-level advisory body, to be considered by the General Assembly at its 47th session; (iii) the views of the General Assembly on UNCED, in particular the institutional and financing arrangements it proposed; and (iv) the restructuring of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. Taking the above into account and as a contribution to discussion on UNCED follow-up, the ACC offers below its views on various issues identified in Agenda 21 for the UN system. Principles and guidelines for the allocation and sharing of responsibilities within the UN system for the implementation of Agenda 21
3. The ACC underlines that the overall goal in examining an allocation and sharing of responsibilities is to optimize the UN system's contribution to the implementation of Agenda 21, through enhancing opportunities for cooperation, filling gaps and avoiding duplication of effort. ACC recommends that an allocation and sharing of responsibilities should evolve from a process based on an analysis of on-going and planned activities of UN system organizations vis-a-vis Agenda 21 programme areas: areas covered by on-going activities, areas where they could be duplication, areas where there are gaps and areas where activities could be joined in such a way as to create greater synergy. Areas where a large number of organizations are involved would require inter-agency consultations and, where appropriate joint programming. This could be facilitated through existing mechanisms or ad hoc consultations. These ad hoc consultations should be called either by the lead agency concerned with the subject area or, where no clear lead agency exists, by the CSD secretariat support structure.

Enhanced cooperation between the multilateral funding institutions and other UN system organizations

4. The ACC notes that Agenda 21 highlights the need for improved cooperation between financing institutions and other UN organizations. The ACC views the rationale for enhanced cooperation as not merely to link executing and funding agencies, but also to integrate different capacities and experience available within the UN system for the benefit of member nations. To achieve this, ACC recommends that substantial consultation and exchange of

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information be undertaken, particularly at country and programme levels. While for the former the role of the Resident Coordinator should be supported, the latter would be important particularly for the new financing mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility and UNDP's Capacity 21; UN Specialized Agencies should be increasingly involved as cooperating and executing agencies in these mechanisms.

Financial requirements

5. The ACC notes the recognition, in Agenda 21, that "financial resources are also required for strengthening the capacity of UN institutions for the implementation of Agenda 21" and that "the provision of new and additional financial resources should be both adequate and predictable". It further notes that it will be up to the secretariats and governing bodies of UN system organizations to assess their respective additional financial requirements related to implementation of Agenda 21.

6. The ACC urges that, taking into account these assessments of requirements, zero-growth budgetary policies be relaxed in order to enable the relevant parts of the UN system to play their full role in the implementation of Agenda 21. Similarly, the timely and full payment of contributions and all arrears would enable organizations to re-establish their full programme delivery capacities.

7. At the same time, the ACC stresses the imperative need to provide supplementary resources to relevant UN system organizations. For, while all organizations are committed to implementing the recommendations of UNCED to the extent possible within existing resources, the provision of additional funds will be a conditio sine qua non for their full and effective response to the new demands generated by Agenda 21 (including those for inter-agency coordination and cooperation). The ACC also strongly supports the replenishment of the GEF in 1993 and the financing of UNDP's Capacity 21, as both would provide resources for the implementation of part of Agenda 21.

Arrangements for cooperation and coordination

8. The ACC is taking steps to ensure effective cooperation and coordination in UN system follow-up to UNCED. It notes that the complexity and enormity of the challenges involved, as well as the scarcity of resources available to tackle them, require maximization of opportunities for streamlining the use of expertise and resources, in order to achieve greater synergy, value added, integration and cost-effectiveness from UN system activities. The Committee stresses that coordination is not an end in itself but a means to achieve these benefits.

The coordination machinery

9. The ACC recalls that Agenda 21 suggested that consideration be given "to establishing a special task force, sub-committee or sustainable development board" to assist it in fulfilling its high-level coordinating role for the UN System. The ACC recognizes that indeed solid analytical work will be needed to underpin the ACC's action in this regard. It considers that none of the existing inter-agency mechanisms has the requisite functions, experience and capacities to provide this. Accordingly, the ACC has decided to streamline and improve the functioning of the existing ACC subsidiary machinery. It has

further decided to establish an Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD), which will form part of a three-tier machinery to coordinate the UN System's follow-up to UNCED.

10. The machinery will comprise:

- (i) the ACC itself, as indicated in Agenda 21, which will be the high-level inter-agency coordination mechanism for policy decision-making;
- (ii) the streamlined existing ACC subsidiary machinery and other inter-agency coordination arrangements, which will ensure complementarity and synergy in the implementation of programme areas of Agenda 21, at technical level, working level;
- (iii) the new Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, which will constitute the intermediate level between coordination of technical work and ACC decision-making in the substantive area of sustainable development, with a view to enhancing ACC decision-making, reporting to intergovernmental bodies and the effectiveness of relevant inter-agency coordination arrangements.

11. The Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development will have participation at the level of senior officials from a core number of ACC members and participants, while remaining open to all ACC members and participants interested in specific issues placed on the agenda of its sessions. The composition of the core group will be reviewed after two years by ACC. The ACC has requested the Committee to meet before ACC's First Regular Session of 1993, with a view to launching a process of inter-agency consultations for UNCED follow-up, aiming to assist the ACC in (i) streamlining the coordinating machinery, (ii) allocating and sharing responsibilities for Agenda 21 implementation by the UN system, (iii) monitoring new and additional financing requirements of UN system organizations related to Agenda 21, taking into account the decisions of their governing bodies, and (iv) assessing new and existing reporting requirements related to implementation of Agenda 21, and making recommendations for their streamlining. As indicated in Agenda 21, this inter-agency mechanism should be serviced by the secretariat support structure of the CSD.

Reporting

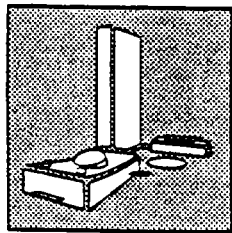
12. On the basis of a brief review of existing reporting requirements and those requested in Agenda 21, the ACC, without wishing to prejudge the decisions of competent bodies, the Commission on Sustainable Development in particular, makes the following observations:

- (i) Some resolutions and decisions adopted by intergovernmental bodies prior to UNCED called for periodic reporting which, in all likelihood, will be duplicated by reports requested in Agenda 21. Multiple and duplicative reporting from the UN system would indicate a lack of coordination and should be avoided. Moreover, it would have serious budgetary implications (costs for staff time and governing body deliberations). There is also a risk that, within intergovernmental bodies such as the CSD, ECOSOC and the General Assembly, governments could review subjects which they had already examined in the governing body of the technically

competent organization, and that, as different ministries may be involved, different, or even conflicting, guidance could be provided, unless a clear distinction is made between overall, cross-sectoral policy issues and technical/sectoral issues.

- (ii) It would be beneficial for the various monitoring bodies (governing bodies, ACC, CSD, ECOSOC and General Assembly) to coordinate to the extent possible their examination of progress in implementation of various parts of Agenda 21. This would allow central monitoring bodies to be aware of the technical policy advice given by governments in the other fora. In this case, it would be useful for the CSD to receive relevant extracts of reports adopted by the governing bodies of UN system organizations.

13. In view of the above, ACC has decided that an assessment of new and existing reporting requirements relevant to Agenda 21 should be undertaken by the IACSD with the help of the secretariat support structure. The IACSD should report its findings and recommendations to the ACC, including proposals to avoid duplication in reporting, ensure cost-effectiveness and foster integration of environment and development. The ACC will use these findings and recommendations to propose streamlining of the reporting process to the CSD, other UN intergovernmental bodies, ECOSOC and the General Assembly.



INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS Review

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ON THE UNITED NATIONS

19 October 1992

- ◆ Current Rumours on UN Reform
- ◆ Thornburgh Speech to Fifth Committee

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High-Level Group Wants Radical Refocusing of UN Secretariat and Intergovernmental Bodies

A new "Directorate of Economic Social and Environmental Affairs" is one of the major proposals of a high-level group created by the Secretary-General earlier this year to advise him on UN reform. In a confidential Interim Report, the group (see box) also urges a substantial reorganization of the UN development system's field presence. It also expresses itself on the need to strengthen the Economic and Social Council at the expense of the General Assembly.

The report calls on the Secretary-General to name a "High-Level official for Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs, second in rank only to himself. The functions of the new official would be "coordination and overall management of the work programmes and budgets of all entities in the economic, social and environmental sectors, wherever they are located". All entities located outside of Headquarters such as UNCTAD, UNEP, and the Regional Commissions would be under the official's "immediate responsibility". So would all offices at headquarters "covering the substantive areas of global overview and analysis, socio-economic research, population, statistics, substantive servicing of ECOSOC, and sustainable development, including substantive servicing of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Offices now located in Vienna that are concerned with social development would be transferred to headquarters. However, "headquarters programmes in a number of areas such as science and technology, transnational corporations and natural resources" would be redeployed to "other UN entities". Why three areas so critical to development and environmental sustainability would be moved out is unexplained. *[It might be that the Secretariat units currently dealing with the topics are deemed unsuitable for the new tasks. Or perhaps the topics are considered*

politically too gritty to deal with in the environment-development context.]

Another proposal in the report is that offices at Headquarters as well as other global and regional UN entities such as UNCTAD "assign, on a rotating basis, a significant proportion of their staff among themselves, and to the field, to improve national capacities for policy analysis, as

High-Level Group

Co chairmen: Jan Pronk (Netherlands), Enrique Iglesias (Uruguay)

Members: A. Adedeji (Nigeria), B. Conable (United States), S. Heffelfinger (France), S. Okita (Japan), I. G. Patel (India), Rapporteur: A. McIntyre (Grenada).

well as the dialogue between Member States and the United Nations". Whether the substantive ends will be served is debatable. But the move will undoubtedly have the effect of displacing large numbers of UN staff and rendering them extremely amenable to change.

The "High Official" in charge of all this would be "the principal adviser to the Secretary-General with respect to the allocation of funds and/or the assignment of operational responsibilities for the implementation of activities for the follow-up of Agenda 21". He would also "provide the institutional umbrella for the interim secretariat units and arrangements for the follow-up" on the Climate

Change Convention and the Biodiversity treaty. Or at least "provide a coordinating framework for such activities".

The group recommends that the "High Level official should be a professional of eminence in the development field, who can bring status and authority to the work of the Office and the United Nations as a whole, thereby generating the confidence of and collaboration from the rest of the system, as well as from the outside community". The report adds: "It goes without saying that the same consideration applies to the recruitment of senior and other officials for other Offices and Departments". *[What the group recommends at the Secretariat level is, in effect, the restoration of a substantially stronger version of the post of Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, abolished by the Secretary-General a few weeks after he assumed office. (See IDR Vol 3 # 4.) The specific reference to the powers and quality of the office is significant. The old post of D-G, created by the General Assembly in 1978, was given a staff rather than a line function to reduce the hierarchical threat perceived by the then Secretary-General, Kurt Waldheim. Also, the overall quality of the office was allowed to decline over the years, progressively reducing its clout.]*

The office of the "High Official" should be that of a "nerve centre and catalyst for the Organization as a whole - brain-storming issues and encouraging other parts of the system and outside institutions to investigate them in greater depth" the report says. "When these issues are ready

for intergovernmental consideration, the official should mobilize inputs from relevant organizations in order to prepare the necessary documentation for ECOSOC and/or the Sustainable Development Commission." (see below)

Within the new Directorate, the group urges "unity of command in the economic, social and environmental work of the Secretariat, under single leadership and overall management, with clear lines of authority specified for the different heads of individual entities". To achieve this, the group urges swift action, saying that the "margin of opportunity" to re-establish the standing and authority of the Secretariat "is small and the time for grasping it short". If "immediate action is not taken to make the Secretariat a more responsive and cost-effective institution, we fear that the momentum for change could well be lost".

Advisory Board

In implementing the UNCED recommendation that a high-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development be created, the group suggests another major regrouping. It calls for a review and streamlining of existing institutes or research bodies. Specifically, "since the concept of sustainable development goes beyond the traditional concerns of development planning, we recommend that the present Committee on Development Planning be appropriately absorbed in the Advisory Board".

Inter-Governmental Bodies

Citing the Secretary-General's Report on the Work of the Organization (*IDR* vol 3 #32), the group says that if his vision of the UN is to be realized, "Governments must move expeditiously to strengthen ECOSOC further and streamline the relevant parts of the United Nations intergovernmental machinery". It urges the Secretary-General to undertake consultations at a high political level to review "the necessary changes in the agendas of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly which should no longer overlap with ECOSOC".

Running well before horse and cart, the group then says that "intergovernmental discussions so far point towards the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) and the proposed International Development Council (IDC) as two prin-

cipal arms of ECOSOC - one dealing with policy issues in the multi-dimensional field of sustainable development as envisaged at UNCED and set out in Agenda 21; the other with operational programmes and activities to give effect to priorities emanating from the intergovernmental discussions. The drift of present thinking seems to be that these two bodies should be of limited membership". *[There is little agreement on the reform of ECOSOC. The report gives no inkling that some of its cardinal assumptions are highly controversial]*

Ministers responsible for international development should not only regularly meet in the framework of Bretton Woods and GATT, but also in the UN, the report says. "They should not only meet to reflect but to guide. They can do so if they meet in a setting of preferably the same format as, for instance, the Development Committee of the IMF and the World Bank: small in size, for example 20 to 24 members, representing different constituencies of States, possibly with rotation."

In order to involve as many governments as possible in the work of the small subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC, the reports suggests two "modalities". One would be that countries represented on the SDC should preferably not be represented on the IDC. The other would be the creation of panels by both those bodies to review the implementation of Agenda 21, the funds available and the various programmes. Member States not represented in the IDC or the SDC could sit on those panels. *[Developing countries are wary of such arrangements, for they are calculated to minimize the numerical strength of the Group of 77 and give maximum play to the disparity of their interests. They are particularly fearful that the new Sustainable Development Commission will become an instrument to constrain and direct their development from abroad, rather than to get developed countries to cut down on pollution.]*

UN Regional Presence

To strengthen the UN's regional presence, the report suggests the following

- Much closer networking between the Regional Commissions and the field agencies.

- Consider locating the regional bu-

reaus of UNDP and the regional offices of UNICEF and UNFPA in the cities where the Regional Commissions are located (Addis Ababa, Baghdad, Bangkok, Geneva, Santiago). The Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions would be regional versions of the national-level Resident Coordinators.

- Study the feasibility of decentralizing to the regions, the UNDP Office for Project Services and relevant elements of the former DTCD. *[DTCD, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, was the arm of the UN secretariat empowered to undertake technical assistance activities. When it was merged into the UN's mega-department of Economic and Social Development, it was a major executing agency of UNDP funded programmes.]*

- Strengthen the Secretariats of the Regional Commissions by redeploying some of the analytical and operational activities and related staff now assigned to UN headquarters.

Guide for Action

The group says UN reform in the economic and social area should be guided by the fact that development is a multifaceted process aimed at improving well-being. "Economic growth is its main-spring, equity, social responsibility and ecological sustainability guide its thrust to desirable ends. All these factors must be present in the strategy that guides the Secretariat's action" the report says.

In an era of increasing interdependence, the group says, "development must be global if it is to be sustainable". The Secretariat "must monitor and analyze development trends and problems in all regions and their international interactions, giving due weight to the importance and consequences of developments in the industrialized world". Its global vision must be long term, highlight "the unspoken concerns of the poor and of future generations" and seek out the common interests of the world community.

In supporting national action, the Secretariat must "select those areas in which it can have most impact and direct its energies to those countries and groups of people most in need. Maintaining its focus on developing countries, it must be responsive to the genuine needs of newly-emerging States". ■

Rumours Fly as Uncertain Secretariat Faces Second Phase of Ghali Reforms

With the promised second phase of Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's reforms drawing ever closer, rumours of major changes, many apocryphal, have reduced large sections of the Secretariat to a state of dithering uncertainty.

On Friday, last week, some of the rumours assumed such a level of specificity that their conversion to reality was generally expected at the daily noon Press briefing. But nothing major was revealed. The only blip at the briefing was Spokesman Francois Giuliani's announcement that he and Deputy Spokeswoman Nadia Younes were transferring to other jobs "by mutual agreement". (Replacing them will be former Deputy Spokesman Joe Sills.) Among the many rumours floating around, there is, according to usually reliable sources, some substance to the following:

□ Three (or four, depending on the source) Assistant-Secretary-General posts are to be eliminated, all in the Department of Administration and Management (DAM). All are under Dick Thornburgh of the United States. The people affected are the heads of Conference Services (Francoise Cestac of France), the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance (Jacques Baudot of France), the Office of Human Resources Management (Abdou Cisse of Senegal), and Office of General Services (Richard Foran of Canada).

□ Mr. Foran is said to be leaving the Secretariat with an agreed termination, and Mr. Cisse to be heading for one of the Food agencies in Rome. There are varying stories of what will happen to Ms. Cestac and Mr. Baudot. A fairly reliable source has it that they will probably stay on at a new D-3 level, to be created above the existing level of Director.

□ The D-3 concept is something the Secretary-General is said to be exploring seriously as a way of keeping able staff in the career service of the UN, and clearly demarcating the line between them and political appointees. According to what he has told members of the staff, he wants to completely insulate the career service from governmental influence and pressure, while giving them legitimate say in

the selection of political appointees.

□ The decimation of DAM is said to be an indication that the United States is not interested in hanging on to it after the tenure of Under-Secretary-General Thornburgh. Also supporting this line of speculation is the push by the United States to create the post of Inspector-General (see p 4) with *system-wide* powers of scrutiny. The United States would certainly push to get *that* post, for it would have a double advantage. The first would be its unprecedented scope; the second would be that American occupancy of it would not preclude a claim to one of the other Under-Secretary-General posts at UN headquarters. The Inspector-General, like the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), would be funded jointly by the UN and the Specialized Agencies. As such, it could legitimately be excluded from the division of the loaves and fishes of high-level New York posts.

□ The JIU is reportedly not long for this world: it is to be subsumed by the Inspector-General's office.

□ The Advisory Committee on Administration and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) is said to be on the United States hit list because of its vested interest in blocking the "flexibility" the Secretary-General has said is necessary to re-apportion resources within the Secretariat. Part of ACABQ's power is the institutional memory and political strength incarnated in its chairman for the last 17 years, Conrad Mselle of Tanzania. He came in for concentrated attention in the Washington Post's recent series (20 to 23 September) on "The UN Empire". The committee has been discussing term limits for the chairman. Mselle's current three-year term ends at the end of 1994, and there are signs that Ghana's Kwaku Dankwa wants to succeed him. One indication of this is said to be Ghana's support in the Fifth Committee for the proposal to combine the Working Capital Fund and

Peace-Keeping Funds of the UN. Other developing countries are opposed to mixing the two types of funds, arguing that they are based on different forms of assessments. (Permanent members of the Security Council and developed countries pay more than they do under the apportionment scheme followed for the regular budget.)

□ Mackenzie, the high-power consulting company that has worked without a fee to assess the work of the Department of Administration and Budget, has handed in its final report. It proposes that further - paid - studies be conducted of the Field Operations Division, the unit responsible for logistical, communications and procurement support of UN peace-keeping and humanitarian activities. The pitch for paid work seems to have come with an undertaking that the firm can make recommendations that will save the United Nations anywhere from 60 to a 100 million dollars. The Nordics are beginning to suspect that this will be at their expense. Japanese car makers (who now provide most of the cars for UN field operations) should also probably feel the itch of cross-hairs on their backs.

□ The Staff Committee finally got to meet with the Secretary-General last week. Evidently, they left charmed and pleased with what he told them. The Secretary-General envisions an international civil service that will be substantially more of a field service than it is now. Headquarters staff will be substantially smaller after the current spate of reforms is over. It will also be subjected to field rotation practices similar to the one the UN Development Programme is supposed to be following. The overall size of the UN Secretariat could, however, be larger than it is now, because of the increased demands being directed at the UN.

□ Though the Fifth Committee is in a Personnel year, Abdou Cisse, the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel and Angela King, his senior Director, have been sent off on special assignments. ■

Thornburgh Urges Action on UN Reform, Financial Crisis, Budget and Audit Process

There is a "once-in-a-life-time" opportunity to reform the United Nations so as to permit it to play the role world affairs that it should, Under-Secretary-General Dick Thornburgh told the Fifth Committee on 13 October. The "window of opportunity" would not remain open long, he said, and urged that maximum advantage be taken of it. The wide-ranging speech covered the financial situation of the Organization, the budget and audit processes, personnel policies and technological innovations. The following is a summary (not comprehensive) of what he said:

Financial Situation: The overall financial situation of the Organization [described in A-C.5-47-13] continued to be a matter of overriding concern, Mr. Thornburgh said. On 12 October 1992, unpaid assessed contributions totalled in rounded terms, \$1.2 billion. Of this total, more than \$550 million was owed for the regular budget and \$605 million was owed for assessed peace-keeping operations.

At the same date, only 18 Member States had paid their assessments in full for both the regular budget and for peace-keeping operations.

During virtually all of 1992, it had been necessary to borrow from and among various peace-keeping accounts to meet the cash requirements of other peace-keeping operations. With all reserves exhausted, it became necessary, beginning in August, to borrow from various peace-keeping funds to meet the cash requirements of the regular budget as well. At this point, some \$80 million had been borrowed from peace-keeping funds to enable the Secretary-General to meet the obligations and to ensure the continued functioning of this Organization.

Unless \$400 million of the unpaid assessments is collected between September 30 and the end of the year, the regular budget and all peace-keeping operations will run out of funds simultaneously. The United States last week paid \$229 million, and the Soviet Union paid \$18 million this week.

The shortage of funds to meet expenses, continuing uncertainty about the availability of funds in the immediate future, and the unremitting precariousness of the financial situation of the Organization all combine to make the efficient management of the United Nations extremely difficult. The Secretary-General's 17 June

report to the General Assembly entitled *An Agenda for Peace*, pointed to the need to increase public awareness and support for the Organization's long-term financial security. To that end, the Secretary-General and the Ford Foundation last month announced the formation of an international advisory group on UN Financing, co-chaired by Paul Volcker, former Chairman of the United States Federal Reserve Board and Shijura Ogata, retired Deputy Governor of the Japan Development Bank. Many eminent financial and governmental experts from

Meetings

both the public and private sectors around the world were included in the group. The Secretary-General intended to present their advice, along with his comments, for the consideration of the General Assembly during this session.

Budget Formulation

The proposed Programme Budget Outline for 1994-1995 (A-47-358), reviewed by and debated extensively in the CPC last month, represented the Secretary-General's preliminary estimates of resources for the next biennium. It was based on the premise of a globally stable budget for the next biennium, and on projections from existing and anticipated mandates from the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In taking into account the increased role of the UN in many domains, significant redeployments of staff and other resources among the various parts and sections of the programme budget were not only possible, but desirable. The outline indicated priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature. Increases were proposed in four areas of activity:

- Overall policy-making which in-

cludes the Office of the Secretary-General as well as the General Assembly, the Security Council and other organs.

- The new Department for Political Affairs and Peace-keeping Operations.

- International cooperation for development, under which are the activities of the new Department for Economic and Social Development and UNCTAD.

- Human rights and humanitarian affairs, covering the Centre for Human Rights, the Department for Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

A "diminished priority", was proposed for common support services including both administration and management and conference services. Whether or not the General Assembly decided to establish priorities for the next biennium among the programmes and activities competing for resources, the debate on the proposed priorities would be of utmost importance, for priorities expressed themselves in the behaviour of an institution not only through the allocation of resources, but also through the myriad attitudes and decisions which constituted the daily life of the Organization. The setting of priorities was thus not just a technical exercise but an integral part of the political discourse that characterized debate on a budget or its outline. Saying that every programme is a priority really meant that *nothing* was a priority.

The Secretary-General's proposals on the methodology for the preparation of the programme budget (A-C.5-47-3) contained the prototype of a new and simplified budget format. Also before the committee was the Secretary-General's proposal for revisions in 40 programmes, reflecting new mandates that had emerged since the plan was adopted two years ago. These included the outcome of UNCED and UNCTAD VIII "as well as the result of the first phase of the restructuring of the Secretariat which is currently under way".

The CPC had recommended that a prototype of a new format of the Medium

Term Plan be presented next year, and Mr. Thornburgh said it was "no secret that I believe that this instrument should be profoundly modified. At this point, its length and complexity render difficult a clear perception of the policies of the Organization". Another shortcoming was the lack of real involvement of Member States in the substantive content of the plan through the various intergovernmental commissions and committees."

Revised estimates for the current biennium resulting from the first phase of the restructuring of the Secretariat (A-C.5-47-2) indicated a savings of \$4 million. This was the result of suppressing 13 high-level posts "carried out in full conformity with the spirit and letter of resolution 41-213", stemming from the "decision of the Secretary-General to simplify the structure of the Secretariat to ensure clearer lines of responsibility and accountability, as well as a greater coherence in the implementation of the policies of the Organization". Seven departments were created under eight Under-Secretaries-General.

Peace-keeping: Twelve of the 28 items on the Fifth committee's agenda were on the financing of peace-keeping operations. They constituted the single most costly programme ever undertaken by the United Nations, costing over \$2.5 billion dollars in 1992. Ten of the 12 programmes are funded under the assessment formula used for peace-keeping operations. The Secretary-General's report on this formula pointed to anomalies in the allocation of countries to the four contributor groups, reflecting requests from countries for a realignment of the groups on the basis of realistic accounting of currency exchange rates and per capita income. The appropriations for 1992 ranged from a low of \$21 million for MINURSO (Western Sahara) to a high of \$838 million for UNAMIC-UNTAC (Cambodia). The maintenance of the existing operations of an additional six-month period would require an estimated additional \$1 billion. The only operation that was adequately financed throughout 1992 was MINURSO, and that was due to its reduced level of activities (resulting from the stalled peace process). The cash flow situation would have been worse if reimbursements to troop contributors

were made as originally planned. At the end of October, amounts due to troop contributors would amount to \$250 million (\$58 million for UNTAC, \$64 million for UNPROFOR and \$128 million for UNIFIL).

Inspector-General

The report of the Board of Auditors (A-47-315) had drawn the attention of the General Assembly, inter-alia to a number of cases of fraud. "In all instances, it was the Administration which identified these cases and took steps to deal with them. Where the perpetrators were UN officials, action was taken to recover the funds and to institute appropriate disciplinary action".

The Secretary-General intended to propose to the General Assembly the creation of a *system-wide* Inspector General for the United Nations. This had been a suggestion raised from time to time before in the committee as well as in the General Assembly, and it "was an idea, whose time has come".

The creation of an Inspector General should take into account the organizations that currently perform a subset of the functions that would be envisioned in the Inspector General. A number of those existing organizations had not lived up to the expectations, and evidence pointed to the conclusion that they were not equipped to adequately handle the new responsibilities and resources that Member States would be entrusting to the UN.

Management

No system for the maintenance and improvement of the various systems of financial and other internal controls were absolutely fail safe and they could always be improved. But the computerized Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), expected to come into use at headquarters by the end of 1993 and to be installed at other major offices during 1994, would prove extremely beneficial. It would provide management with timely, up-to-date financial and personnel information and constitute an important "strategic tool" for managing the Organization and rationalizing its work.

Personnel

The "cumbersome and complicated personnel system that had developed during the history" of the Organization had to be changed. During the session, a "per-

sonnel year" for the Fifth Committee, the reform of the system must be attempted.

In undertaking reform the goal was to "develop a change vision which will be shared by all members of the Secretariat from the third basement to the 38th floor".

During phase two of the restructuring of the Secretariat, a detailed review of staffing tables would be made to identify areas of duplication of functions and areas requiring new resources. This was not a retrenchment exercise but one of adaptation. To help the process of taking stock, external recruitment for vacant professional posts had been temporarily frozen in February. The need to fill vacancies was weighed case by case, the maximum use was made of in-house talent, and vacant posts were redeployed temporarily to meet unforeseen needs in "rapidly developing areas such as peace-keeping and humanitarian efforts". The intention in redeploying posts is not to change the current financial regulation on transfer of resources among sections of the budget, but "merely to indicate that greater flexibility in the use of staff resources in the implementation of the programme budget is the only way to enable the Secretariat to respond in a rapid and more effective manner to changing circumstances and mandates".

Career Development

Management training was high on the list of the Secretariat's priorities. The UN currently devoted 0.27 per cent of its staff costs to occupational and management training while UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank were spending, on average, about eight times as much. A comprehensive report on this would be issued shortly. A report would also be presented shortly on career development, reflecting many of the views presented by experts provided by the Australian and French governments. In considering the report on career development, the committee should look in particular at ☐ Increased appropriations for occupational and management training ☐ Meaningful performance evaluation, including the priority review and revision of a rebuttal procedure which had become far too cumbersome. ☐ The status of women in the Secretariat. Currently 30% of posts subject to geographical distribution are occupied by women, and they were mostly at lower levels.

Development Notes

Flow of Resources from Poor to Rich Countries has Stopped but Major Problems Remain

For the first time since 1983, developing countries as a group got more money from developed countries than was returned to them, says a report of the Secretary-General (A-47-404). But the net gain was barely positive when the deterioration of the terms of trade for developing countries was taken into account. Latin American countries, the most heavily indebted in the world, and African countries, the poorest as a group, continued their net transfusion of resources to the rich countries.

The facts are as follows: between 1983 and 1989, there was a net outflow of \$98.5 billion from capital importing developing countries. In 1990, the trend reversed and there was a net inflow of \$9.6 billion. That rose to \$32.5 billion in 1991.

That overview hides substantial differences among developing countries. The net loss figure, for example, hides the fact that 15 of the most heavily indebted countries, most of the Latin American, actually lost \$211.7 billion between 1983 and 1989. The negative trend continued for this group in 1990, amounting to \$16.5 billion. (For Latin American countries as a group, the negative trend also continued, amounting to \$15.6 billion.) In 1991,

the 15 most heavily indebted had a positive net flow of resources of \$8.4 billion (\$4.4 billion for Latin America). The turnaround for both groups, however, was due to short-term borrowing and return of flight capital, amounting to \$23.5 billion for the 15 most heavily indebted. Such flows, the report observes, "may have very little to do with any improvement in the prospects of growth or the rates of return in the developing countries, which would be the variables relevant for sustainable positive inflows in these countries". That is especially true because the net flow of medium and long term foreign private credit and foreign official credit continued to be negative by substantial amounts: \$24.4 billion for the 15 most

heavily indebted and \$20.7 billion for Latin American countries in 1991. Net direct investment in these countries did increase, as a result of privatization exercises and efforts to attract additional investments through changes in regulatory and macro-economic policies.

Africa, especially south of the Sahara, did not experience even that indication of market-related improvement either in 1990 or 1991. While the net flow of foreign private credit continued to remain negative, official aid increased and reflected a small positive flow. In extremely diplomatic fashion, the report says that "while the flow of official grants and credits has remained comparatively large and stable in the past five years in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, there was a sharp rise in the official grants in other African countries in 1990 and 1991, largely as a consequence of the conflict in the Persian Gulf". (Bluntly, the figures for the whole continent have been affected by the grants received by Egypt during and after the Gulf conflict.)

Asian countries turned in the best performance among developing countries. They received \$17.5 billion and \$25.2 billion respectively in 1990 and 1991, in net positive flows.

Documents

□ A 57-page report on UN operational activities. This is the main report to aid the General Assembly in its triennial "comprehensive policy review". It will be dealt with at length in *IDR* after the Second Committee takes up the item on 26 October (A-47-419).

□ A 27-page report on the implementation of commitments and policies agreed upon in the General Assembly's Declaration on International Economic Cooperation. The Declaration was adopted in May 1990, and was hailed as reflecting a new and pragmatic consensus that would spark a regeneration of growth in developing countries. The report says it has not happened. Many developing countries have undertaken major policy reforms at home, adopting market oriented policies and liberal trade regimes. But the global economic environment was hardly conducive to growth. The economies of major developed countries continued to stag-

nate, the economies of countries in "transition" continued to deteriorate, and there was little by way of heightened international cooperation. The report points to little that is hopeful. The projection for major developed countries is slow growth, and many of them also face major social problems, largely related to economic decline and increasing unemployment. The stalemate in the Uruguay Round of trade talks has been "a major failure" and "casts doubt on the future of the multilateral trading system". Though military expenditures and arms sales have dropped, "slow economic growth and fiscal disequilibria have made the peace dividend harder to reap" (A-47-397).

□ A 13-page report on combating desertification and drought. This reflects the continuing - and largely ineffective - followup to the 1977 Conference on Desertification. Nearly 40 per cent of the Earth's land area is dryland, and about a sixth of that is hyper-arid desert. About 900 million people live in the remaining arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid lands.

About 70 per cent of that inhabited area is under threat of desertification, a catch-all term to describe the degradation of land in a variety of ways. Referring to a "special detailed study" on the desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region between the years 1985 and 1991, the report says that the problems there are formidable. The great Sahelian drought of 1968 to 1973 actually became a prolonged drought lasting for almost 20 years, it says, and it extended into the eastern Sudano-Sahelian region and southern Africa. Populations in the area have little control over the problems of dessication caused by this prolonged drought. The report notes the action proposed under Agenda 21. It observes that there has been an "overall lack of funding for desertification control activities" which can be "attributed to the overall lack of priority given to the issue by both governments and donors". The "funds allocated to drought and desertification activities are not commensurate with the scale of the problems" (A-47-393).

Documents

□ A 3-page note on the establishment of a commission of experts to look into human rights violations in former Yugoslavia. This is in implementation of Security Council resolution 780 of 6 October. The Secretary-General proposes a 5-member commission of experts serving in their personal capacity, based in Geneva and supported by a small secretariat. He notes that the Human Rights Commission has appointed a Special Rapporteur to investigate the same matters (S-24657).

□ A 5-page report from the Governing Council of the UN Compensation Commission, telling the Security Council of decisions it has taken to extend the deadlines for filing claims against Iraq and to prevent multiple recovery of compensation by claimants (S-24611).

□ A 30-page report on the UN Conference on Human Rights (A-47-360; see *IDR* vol 3 #34).

□ A 15-page report on international cooperation to combat organized crime. The report says organized crime does not just involve the drug trade. Organized bodies of criminals are involved now in car thefts, hijacking of lorries, money laundering, the illicit arms trade, disposal of toxic waste and the construction industry. There has been a spurt of organized criminal activity in the countries of eastern Europe and the republics of the former Soviet Union. International cooperation remains a "matter of intention rather than reality" (A-47-381). □ A 24-page report on implementation of the Statement of Principles and Action Programme for crime prevention (A-47-399).

□ A 206-page list of banks, insurance companies, firms and other enterprises giving, directly or indirectly, military, economic and other assistance to South Africa (A-47-480-Add 1).

□ A 15-page report on policies and programmes involving youth. About as silly as a report can get. Example: "A main trend in recent years has been the steady evolution of the concept of youth in the last decade, highlighting youth as a positive social force in society. Indeed, there has been a corresponding social recognition of this by Member States, which has kept pace with the mechanisms of the articulation process. There now exists a definite concept of you based upon the assertion that youth constitutes a social group with its own specific identity, needs and problems" (A-47-349).

□ An 8-page report on narcotic drugs. Nothing of substance (A-47-378).

□ A 32-page report from the Joint Inspection Unit, assessing the environmental focus of projects financed by UN agencies. Done at the request of UNDP, the report contains general nostrums as well as the ever popular "more resources" recommendation (A-47-457).

□ A 68-page Special Report from the FAO's Early Warning System on the food supply situation in Sub-Saharan Africa. The highlights: Somalia continues to be devastated by a massive famine. A very poor cereal crop now being harvested will not help much. Without a substantial intensification of the relief effort, things will get worse. Elsewhere in East Africa, crop prospects are mixed and acute shortages persist in parts of the Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania. In Southern

Africa, record quantities of food are being imported and extensive emergency relief programmes are underway. In Liberia and Sierra Leone, there are serious food shortages. In most Sahelian countries of West Africa, crop prospects are good following abundant rains in recent weeks. Overall, food aid needs in sub-Saharan Africa are set to rise sharply in 1992-1993. Global cereal availability is predicted to fall slightly. "It is now possible that a large proportion of sub-Saharan Africa's food aid needs will not be met in 1992-1993".

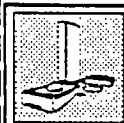
□ A 150-page report with a glossy cover, titled *Planetarium: A challenge to Educators*. A guidebook prepared for International Space Year by the Office of Outer Space Affairs, it contains a set of essays by knowledgeable and worthy people. The first one begins: "We are citizens all of a single planet. We live on the shores of this tiny world, the third planet of nine, circling an average star, the Sun. This star is just one among billions in a great city of stars, the Milky Way, itself just one among a billion other stellar cities stretching on perhaps forever". There is no reference number.

□ A 22-page report on the implementation of the International plan of action on Ageing. A general survey at the end of the first UN Decade on Ageing. "The anniversary year 1992 has served to make ageing an issue of wide public debate: it has been a year of arrival, but more importantly, it is one of departure". The "Age of Ageing" is on us. The report outlines a set of eight global targets the pursuit of which "constitute a practical strategy for the next decade" (A-47-369).

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Communications

Bosnia-Herzegovina: The Security Council should enforce the no-fly zone (S-24616, S-24640, S-24651). The "Belgrade regime and its proxies" are using "inflammable artillery". The Security Council must enforce resolutions or stop preventing Bosnia-Herzegovina from self defence (S-24622). Note on reports on human rights violations (available for consultation in room S-3520), from a group of NGOs (S-24654).

Croatia: joint declaration of the Presidents of Croatia and Yugoslavia on 30 September in Geneva (S-24476)

United Kingdom: agreements reached on "aerial confidence measures" at the Geneva talks (S-24634).

Yugoslavia: the report on the use of mercenaries by the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Commission (A-47-412), is biased. The distinction made by the Special Rapporteur between mercenaries and "noble international combatants for peace" merits further examination. Material from the Croatian Ministry of Information is used while atrocities committed against Serbians by Muslim and Croatian forces are ignored. Yugoslavia is said to have "declared war" on Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is untrue. Foreigners associated with the forces of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina include nationals of Philippines, Argentina, Ukraine, United States, Netherlands, Hungary, France, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy. Also, "some 1,300 mujahidins"

from Iran, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Morocco, Turkey, Sudan and other countries are fighting on the Muslim side in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also a note on "Genesis of the Yugoslav Crisis" (A-C.3-47-3). The UN Legal Counsel's interpretation of the General Assembly resolution on Yugoslav participation has been used to exclude Yugoslavia from an UNCTAD meeting and from the Executive Committee of UNHCR (A-47-523). Request that import of heating oil be allowed before onset of winter (S-24643).

Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Turkey: the Security Council should meet urgently to create safe corridors for delivery of aid, enforce a no-fly zone and take steps to bring before an international tribunal those responsible for massive human rights violations (S-24620).

Georgia: request for an urgent meeting Security Council to discuss the situation in Abkhazia (S-24619).

Oman: resolution of the Council of Arab Foreign Ministers on the occupation by Iran of the "Arab islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates in the Arabian Gulf" (S-24609).

South Africa: the agreement reached between State President de Klerk and ANC President Mandela on the resumption of talks (A-47-494). The Anti-Apartheid Committee's plan to observe the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners suggests that it is failing to keep track of developments (A-47-515).

Mozambique: text of the General

Peace Agreement signed with Renamo on 4 October (S-24635).

Armenia: the Security Council should meet urgently to initiate direct involvement of the UN to bring about a lasting cease-fire agreement in Nagorno-Karabakh (S-24656).

China: protesting the call by a few speakers during the General Debate in the Assembly for "two Chinas" and "One China, one Taiwan" (A-47-520).

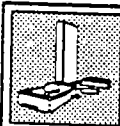
Argentina, Brazil, Chile: statements made on 26 August at the special session of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (A-C.1-47-4).

Iraq: the 10 September statement of the Damascus Declaration countries repeats assertions made by quarters hostile to Iraq that are meant to divert attention from the policies of big Powers to divide and occupy the region (S-24647). Heat flares continue to be dropped on Iraqi civilian areas (S-24664).

Palestinian Rights Committee: some 3,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli central prisons are on hunger strike to protest ill treatment. The strike began on 27 September. The S-G and the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention must ensure that the treatment of Palestinian detainees meets internationally recognized standards (S-24648).

Palestine Liberation Organization: demonstrators in support of hunger-striking prisoners have been subjected to increased repression; five have been killed and over 200 injured (S-24659).

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Institutionalizing the Earth Summit

The United Nations Commission
on Sustainable Development

By
Kathryn G. Sessions

UNA - USA

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