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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING
COMMITTEE FOR A FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
First session
Washington, D.C., 4-14 February 1991

REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE
WORK OF ITS FIRST SESSION, HELD AT WASHINGTON, D.C.,
FROM 4 TO 14 FEBRUARY 1991

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change was held at Washington, D.C., from 4 to 14 February 1991, in the Westfields International Conference Center, at the invitation of the Government of the United States of America. The meeting was convened in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind", further to resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988 and 44/207 of 22 December 1989.

2. The Ad Hoc Working Group of Government Representatives to Prepare for Negotiations on a Framework Convention on Climate Change was convened by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at Geneva from 24 to 26 September 1990. The Ad Hoc Working Group made recommendations concerning the work of the first negotiating session. Other relevant material was provided in the statement and Ministerial Declaration of the Second World Climate Conference (A/45/696/Add.1, annexes II and III) and the First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the session

3. The session was opened by Mr. Antoine Blanca, Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. In a statement made on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, he welcomed all participants and emphasized that the only way to preserve the planet Earth was to remove the barriers that separate peoples and nations. What was needed at present was to deal not only with the symptoms of climate change, but also with its causes by rethinking the present wasteful style of living. The task before the international community was formidable: rethinking development in the North as well as in the South and ensuring stability and rationality as well as equity and justice between nations, peoples and individuals. Ethical and moral questions linked with the environment, which had previously been ignored for economic and other reasons, had suddenly become major and pressing preoccupations; accelerated climate change required the modification of relations among States, institutions and the exercise of power. This small planet had started to force mankind to act in concert. Peace also meant living in peace with the planet.

4. The Director-General further stated that the United Nations and its associated bodies, in particular UNEP and WMO, as well as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, had participated actively in the preparations for the negotiations. He emphasized the need for strategies that could integrate development with the necessary transfer of financial resources and environmentally safe technologies to developing countries. He drew attention to the parallel that existed between the San Francisco Conference and the process being set in motion at the present meeting. The San Francisco Conference was the result of war between people. The present meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee

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resulted from war between people and the planet. The framework convention on climate change, which should be signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, would be the keystone for a new global order based on justice, equity and long-lasting and environmentally sound development.

5. Mr. Michael R. Deland, Chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, warmly welcomed delegates to the United States of America on behalf of President Bush. The United States, he said, believed that a comprehensive strategy, built on a series of actions with a broad range of benefits, must flow from a commitment to economic growth and responsible stewardship of our planet. Action taken by the Government of the United States would result in greenhouse gas emissions in the year 2000 in the United States being equal to or below 1987 levels. Research and action must proceed in tandem and for that reason global climate research in the United States had increased fivefold since 1989. The United States Government would be seeking \$1.2 billion for the coming fiscal year and, in the words of President Bush, it was "prepared to work openly, diligently and respectfully toward achieving the goal of completing a climate change convention in time for its signature at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992". It was the height of irony, Mr. Deland observed, that as a constructive dialogue was beginning on the shared environmental future of mankind Saddam Hussein's premeditated release of crude oil into the Persian Gulf had inflicted enormous environmental damage. That act would not divert the United States from the task at hand, for which work must go on co-operatively, and those present should act as catalysts for an essential kind of peace - a peace between humanity and the planet.

6. The issues involved were complex and had many implications for present and future generations: the United States recognized the need to promote environmental stewardship for all the world's peoples, in a forum that was democratic and co-operative. There were several guiding principles. Efforts must be comprehensive, addressing a dynamic system of interactions between living things, the waters, land and sky. Agreements should be long term and adaptable; a convention was needed that committed all nations to meaningful action but was not a fixed formula; actions must be continuously reviewed and refined as knowledge and conditions changed. The approach should be inclusive, because the issues were global, involving the participation of all nations. A climate convention should take into account the financial and technological realities of all nations.

7. Mr. Deland ended with a quotation from a statement made by President Bush in April 1990:

"Those who have ascended the economic hill must break down the barriers to progress and assist others now making the climb."

8. Mr. Mostafa K. Tolba, the Executive Director of UNEP, emphasized in his statement that General Assembly resolution 45/212 showed a clear recognition that the actions needed to minimize climate change and stop global warming were complex and difficult. He expressed the willingness of UNEP to support those negotiations and fulfil its obligations under the resolution; positive guidance was expected from the UNEP Governing Council at its meeting in May 1991.

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9. He emphasized that since the negotiations had began the Gulf war had continued to cause great sorrow. All were concerned about the loss of human life, about the future of the world and about the disastrous environmental destruction that was resulting from the presence of oil in the fragile waters of the Persian Gulf, from the impact of dangerous substances on the air, land and waters, and of the climatic impacts of large-scale burning of the oil in the region. Noting the outcome of the Second World Climate Conference, he said that the mounting body of evidence of global warming and climate change gave urgency to the present negotiations and that the remaining uncertainties should act as a spur, not a restraint. There was much action that could be started now: technically feasible and cost-effective technologies existed that could reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the energy sector by at least 20 per cent in most industrialized countries by the year 2005; a 20-30 per cent reduction in methane emissions was also feasible. Many acts that reduced greenhouse gas emissions could be undertaken at negligible cost. He warned that the overall costs of this exercise in global survival would be enormous in the long term. Yet the cost of inaction would be much higher. The global warming problem required a global solution, and the lead must come from those who contributed most of the greenhouse gases. The 1992 Conference should be apprised not only of the results of the present negotiations but also of those of actions already taken at national level. The two core issues in the negotiations, which could not be avoided, were costs, including additional resources, and transfer of technology. It was imperative to bring into focus the issues of commodity prices, international terms of trade and other economic parameters. Sources of funding to meet the additional resources needed by developing countries to leap-frog the use of polluting technologies might involve carbon charges, users' fees, debt relief, tradeable permits and other innovative means. Any actions the developing world was expected to take to protect man's common environment should not have punitive effects on the vulnerable economies of the developing countries or act as an impediment to their badly needed development. The decision-making processes under the convention must be based on equity between North and South. The negotiations should likewise address such pivotal issues as defining the basis for calculating carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emission reductions; sources and sinks of greenhouse gases; alternative sources of energy; and liability and compensation.

10. Finally he emphasized that the two key words in resolution 45/212 were "effective" and "commitments"; that was what the framework convention was expected to contain. The goal of the convention should be to hold concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a safe level and to set achievable targets for energy efficiency and for afforestation. In that context the relation of the climate convention with other treaties, current or planned, should be clarified; the present convention should certainly include concrete commitments on how the industrialized world was planning to ensure full global partnership with the developing world. Rapid action in developing the climate convention should not come at the expense of its content.

11. Mr. G. O. P. Obasi, Secretary-General of WMO, stressed in his statement that the convention to be negotiated by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee would help ensure that the planet Earth continued to provide a home for the life it had nurtured. He observed that the first session of the Committee, which marked a milestone in history, was meeting on a record-breaking warm day for

Washington, D.C., in February. He recalled that the linkages between climate change and the habitability of the planet were identified in 1979 by the First World Climate Conference. Since then much had been learned through the World Climate Programme, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Second World Climate Conference. The Ministerial Declaration of the latter had recognized that a lack of full scientific certainty was no reason to postpone cost-effective action.

12. He stressed the importance of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in exploring interactions and feedbacks, including those involving the Earth/atmosphere system, so as to enhance understanding of the whole: understanding complex interactions was at least as important as understanding individual components. He assured delegations of WMO support in all areas where it was relevant: in helping identify research priorities and monitoring needs, for example; in collecting, analysing and interpreting data; in assisting the developing countries to acquire the skills and methods to study and understand the atmosphere; and in helping to provide administrative support and specialized expertise to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. As a concrete expression of his organization's willingness to help, and to ensure close co-operation between the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the ad hoc secretariat serving the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, he offered space for the ad hoc secretariat in the WMO premises at Geneva. He reminded delegates that much of man's knowledge rested on observations made by previous generations and that it was now essential that the proposed convention provide for the acquisition of the knowledge needed by future generations. He mentioned specific areas needing immediate action, including the oceans, the Global Atmosphere Watch and the Global Climate Observing System. At the Eleventh World Meteorological Congress he would invite members to consider how WMO might, in the spirit of General Assembly resolution 45/212, further contribute to the negotiations, which could be among the most far-reaching ever for socio-economic development and for future global security and survival. While the negotiations would be about climate change, protection of the atmosphere and environment, they would also be about fundamental global changes in energy policy and practices, the world's forests and the low-cost transfer of energy-efficient technologies to developing countries and funding of development pathways with low greenhouse gas emissions. The negotiations involved the very foundations of global security and the development of nations. He hoped that a framework convention would be ready for signature by the time of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

13. He wished the Committee undaunted energy and strength, a good spirit of collaboration and the wisdom to "think long-term but act urgently".

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B. Attendance

14. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States:

Afghanistan	France	Peru
Albania	Germany	Philippines
Algeria	Ghana	Poland
Antigua and Barbuda	Greece	Portugal
Argentina	Holy See	Republic of Korea
Australia	Hungary	Romania
Austria	Iceland	Saint Lucia
Bahamas	India	Samoa
Bangladesh	Indonesia	Senegal
Barbados	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Singapore
Belgium	Ireland	Solomon Islands
Bolivia	Italy	Spain
Botswana	Japan	Sri Lanka
Brazil	Kenya	Sweden
Brunei Darussalam	Kiribati	Switzerland
Bulgaria	Kuwait	Thailand
Burkina Faso	Lesotho	Trinidad and Tobago
Cameroon	Malaysia	Tunisia
Canada	Malta	Turkey
Chile	Marshall Islands	Tuvalu
China	Mexico	Uganda
Colombia	Micronesia	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
Comoros	Mongolia	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Costa Rica	Morocco	United Arab Emirates
Cuba	Myanmar	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Cyprus	Nauru	United States of America
Czechoslovakia	Netherlands	Uruguay
Denmark	New Zealand	Vanuatu
Djibouti	Nicaragua	Venezuela
Ecuador	Nigeria	Yugoslavia
Egypt	Norway	Zaire
El Salvador	Pakistan	Zambia
Ethiopia	Panama	
Fiji	Papua New Guinea	
Finland	Paraguay	

15. The following United Nations offices, organs and specialized agencies were represented at the meeting: Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and Centre for Science and Technology for Development of the Secretariat, United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC/UNEP/WMO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), World Bank, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as well as International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

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16. The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented at the meeting: Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC), Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO), Commonwealth Secretariat, European Community (EEC), International Energy Agency (IEA), Organization of African Unity (OAU), Organization of American States (OAS) and South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

17. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented:

Category I: International Chamber of Commerce and Inter-Parliamentary Union;

Category II: Bahai International Community, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, Greenpeace International, International Council of Environmental Law, International Human Rights Law Group, International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association and World Resources Institute.

Roster: Friends of the Earth, International Organization of Automobile Manufacturers, International Studies Association, National Audubon Society, Natural Resources Defense Council and Sierra Club.

18. The following other non-governmental organizations were represented: Airconditioning and Refrigeration Institute, Alliance for Responsible CFC Policy, Alliance to Save Energy, Alternative Fluorocarbons Environmental Acceptability Study, American Bar Association, American Gas Association, American Forestry Association, American Institute of Mining and Petroleum Engineers, American Iron and Steel Institute, American Mining Congress, American Petroleum Institute, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, Canadian Electrical Association, Celebrate Wild Alaska, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Centre for Atmospheric Chemistry, Centre for Global Change, Centre for International Environmental Law, Chemical Manufacturers Association, Climate Action Network, Climate Council, Climate Institute, Climate Network Europe, Compressed Gas Association, DECCAN Development Society, Ecological Society, Edison Electric Institute, Energy Research Institute, Environmental and Energy Study Institute, Environmental Defense Fund, Episcopal Diocese of Washington Commission on Peace and Environment, Equity and Global Climate Change, European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee, Foreign Policy Institute of Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Forum of Brazilian NGOs to UNCED 92, Global Climate Change, Global Climate Coalition, Harvard Global Environmental Change Program, Independent Ecological Centre, International Energy Studies, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Kenya Energy and Environment Organizations, Lega per l'Ambiente, Media Natura, Movimento Pro-Floresta da Tijuca, National Academy of Sciences, National Association of Manufacturers, National Coal Association, Pollution Probe, Project on Industry and the Environment, Save the Forests - Save the Planet, Socio-Economic Union, Stockholm Environmental Institute, Union of Concerned Scientists, US Chamber of Commerce, US Citizens Network, Uranium Institute, WALHI, Woods Hole Research Center, World Coal Institute, World Information Transfer and World Wildlife Fund.

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C. Election of officers

19. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 4 February, the Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Jean Ripert, Special Adviser to the Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, France as Chairman of the Committee.

20. In his statement, the Chairman thanked the Committee for the confidence placed in him by the election. He emphasized that he would make every effort to ensure the transparency and legitimacy of the negotiating process. The time for the development of the framework convention was very short, given the difficulties and differences existing between Governments and, in particular, their different capacities to respond to the problem of climate change. He expressed his confidence in the joint capacity of the representatives of the Governments present at the meeting to tackle the problem and in the concerted efforts of UNEP, WMO and the United Nations in supporting the negotiations. The quality of work in the field had been confirmed by the results of the Second World Climate Conference and the outcome of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. General Assembly resolution 45/212 confirmed the political will to act. The Chairman was confident that the Committee would develop a flexible strategy for the negotiation of the convention. He noted that in resolution 45/212 the General Assembly had recommended a Bureau consisting of a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, each of the five regional groups being represented by one member.

21. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 4 February, following informal negotiations with regional groups, four Vice-Chairmen were elected by acclamation, one of whom would act as Rapporteur.

22. The Bureau thus consisted of the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Jean Ripert (France)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaoui (Algeria)
Mr. Ion Draghici (Romania)
Mr. Raúl Estrada-Oyuela (Argentina)
Mr. T. Prabhakar Menon (India)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ion Draghici (Romania)

23. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, Mr. Chandrashekhar Dasgupta (India) was elected by acclamation Vice-Chairman in place of Mr. T. Prabhakar Menon (India).

D. Documentation

24. The documents before the Committee at its first session are listed in annex I to the present report.

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E. Secretariat

25. At the 8th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Chairman informed the Committee that the Secretary-General of the United Nations had appointed Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar as Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change and Director of its ad hoc secretariat.

26. At the 9th plenary meeting, on 11 February, the Chairman introduced Mr. Zammit Cutajar to the Committee and outlined his professional experience and career within the United Nations. The Executive Secretary expressed his conviction that the Committee could contribute to a more efficient and equitable use of the world's resources to satisfy human needs and human aspirations. Given that many actions required to counter climate change were also justified on other grounds, he saw prospects for a framework convention with substantive commitments and with productive linkages to more general programmes in other policy areas. Stressing the importance of full and effective participation in the negotiating process, he pledged his best efforts, with the support of his colleagues from the United Nations system, particularly UNEP and WMO, to respond to the needs and guidance of the Committee.

F. Adoption of the rules of procedure

27. At the 9th plenary meeting, on 11 February, the representative of the Office of Legal Affairs introduced proposed amendments to the draft rules of procedure (A/AC.237/2 and Corr.1). Further amendments were contained in document A/AC.237/L.2. The Committee adopted the draft rules of procedure, as amended (A/AC.237/5).

28. After the adoption of the rules of procedure, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, New Zealand and Vanuatu.

29. The representative of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, congratulated the Committee on reaching a compromise, which it considered to be the best possible outcome. The Community would have preferred some improvements in the rules, but did not raise its concern, as a proof of its readiness to compromise. He further confirmed the intention of the European Community to participate fully in the negotiating process of the Committee under the Committee's rules of procedure and expressed its expectation that that participation would take place in constructive co-operation with the other delegations.

30. The representative of New Zealand recalled that eligibility to participate in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee was determined principally by paragraph 2 of resolution 45/212, which provided that the Committee "should be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of its specialized agencies". In that context, his delegation affirmed that the adopted rules of procedure must, in so far as they related to the question of participation in the Committee's work, be interpreted in such a way that no restriction on that right to

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participate was to be inferred from any provision in the rules of procedure. In particular, but without prejudice to the foregoing, the word "State" where it appears in the rules was to be subject to an interpretation that was sufficient to ensure that "members of the specialized agencies" had full participatory rights in the Committee. That was so whether or not they were States Members of the United Nations.

31. The representative of Vanuatu, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, stated that they had joined the adoption by consensus of the rules of procedure with the understanding that the efforts to ensure the representation of the small island developing countries on the Bureau would continue. He thanked the Chairman of the Committee for his efforts in that regard and for the steps he had already taken and was continuing to take to ensure that participation in either a formal or informal manner.

G. Adoption of the agenda

32. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 February, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of the Bureau.
3. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Rules of procedure (A/AC.237/2 and Corr.1);
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
4. Preparation of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related instruments as might be agreed upon.
5. Adoption of the report.

H. Participation of non-governmental organizations

33. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 5 February, the Chairman referred to General Assembly resolution 45/212, which made explicit provision for the participation of non-governmental organizations. The Committee decided that, in order for the Committee to benefit from the important contribution that non-governmental organizations had to make on the subject of its discussion, two observers representing different groups of non-governmental organizations should be invited to speak at the end of the general debate.

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I. Establishment of subsidiary organs and organization of work

34. At the 10th plenary meeting, on 14 February, Mr. Raúl Estrada-Oyuela (Argentina), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, reported on the consultations that had taken place in the informal contact group concerning subsidiary organs and introduced specific proposals on the subject (A/AC.237/L.3).

35. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Chairman stated that, after further consultations on these proposals, he was submitting a draft decision entitled "Establishment of subsidiary organs and organization of work" (A/AC.237/L.5). That draft decision superseded document A/AC.237/L.3.

36. The Committee then adopted the draft decision (see annex II, decision 1/1).

37. After the adoption of the draft decision, a statement was made by the representative of Ghana (on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77 and China).

38. At the same meeting, the Chairman also made a statement concerning the composition of the bureaux of the two Working Groups. He indicated that the election of the members of the bureaux would be postponed until the second session of the Committee.

39. A number of delegations expressed their willingness to show flexibility in solving the problem and to work further with the Chairman to that end.

III. SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS

A. General debate

40. Statements were made in the general debate by representatives of 68 Member States, as well as by representatives of a number of entities and organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

41. Many countries stressed the importance of addressing the issue of global climate change in an integrated and comprehensive manner, taking into account all greenhouse gases, and their sources and sinks, and the need for phased and flexible long-term response strategies. Some of them also stressed that the efforts to address the global climate change issue should take full account of the special circumstances and needs of the developing countries and be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. A common theme was the need to undertake at present actions that were also justified on other grounds, such as increasing energy efficiency and developing new, alternative and renewable sources of energy. In that context, it was stated that conservation measures should be adopted and implemented as soon as possible and that consumer patterns in developed countries should be changed. The capacity of forests and oceans as sinks and the problems of forest protection and afforestation were referred to as particularly important.

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42. Many countries called for early finalization of the organizational part of the work of the Committee and for development of the first draft of the framework convention, which should be negotiated as soon as possible. They referred to the results of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to the Noordwijk, Hague, Cairo and other declarations and statements, and in particular the Ministerial Declaration of the Second World Climate Conference (A/45/696/Add.1, annex III); these should be taken into consideration in the development of the draft framework convention.

43. Most speakers referred to June 1992, the date of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as the date for the framework convention on climate change to be ready for signature. Some countries expressed the view that the negotiating process should concentrate on drafting the provisions of the framework convention, having in mind that preparation of related legal instruments and protocols could start at a later stage, taking into account the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. However, several countries stressed the need for negotiations to proceed in parallel on the framework convention and on protocols.

44. It was stated by several countries that actions should be based on the precautionary principle and on the best available scientific knowledge; that scientific uncertainties could not excuse inaction on global climate change; and that waiting for scientific proof could involve putting at risk the common future of humankind and its very existence. All countries recognized the need for continued research to enhance understanding of global climate change and its effects on the environment and humankind. Most countries strongly supported further development of scientific co-operation, monitoring and information exchange on scientific aspects of global climate change, including physical, chemical and biological processes, as well as on the impact of global climate change on forests, oceans and biological diversity. Many countries also referred to the need for advice to be available from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change during the negotiation process.

45. Some countries were of the view that the framework convention should contain general principles and general obligations, and that protocols, negotiated subsequently, could define commitments in a detailed and binding manner. Other countries emphasized that an effective framework convention on climate change should include firm commitments. Views expressed included the need to avoid arbitrary mechanical targets; to stabilize the emission of greenhouse gases by around the year 2000 at about 1990 levels; and to adopt targets for the reduction of emissions. Several countries advocated immediate and significant cuts in the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by industrialized countries. Several others emphasized that an effective framework convention on climate change should include specific commitments supplemented by protocols negotiated in parallel and urged all industrialized countries to undertake commitments to stabilize or reduce their carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. Some of those proposed that stabilization by industrialized countries of carbon dioxide emissions should in general be achieved by the year 2000 at 1990 levels.

46. Many countries emphasized that an effective framework convention and any related legal instruments should be based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility, taking full account of the necessity for the energy consumption of developing countries to grow as their economies develop. A number of countries expressed the need for all countries to make commitments to address climate change. Many other countries referred to the need for specific commitments by developed countries to provide transfer of technology on a preferential and concessional basis, and new and additional financial resources to developing countries, to enable them to address global climate change.

47. Many countries emphasized the special vulnerability of low-lying areas and small island countries to the effects of climate change. Several countries emphasized that the physical and cultural survival of small island countries was threatened by global warming from both sea-level rise and coral bleaching; consequently, their particular needs should be recognized and provided for in the framework convention. It was acknowledged that the participation of those countries in the negotiating process should be assured.

48. Several countries emphasized the need for a particular understanding of the potentially dramatic impacts of climate change on arid and semi-arid areas.

49. Some countries pointed to the particular situation of States whose economies were in transition and noted that their obligations should be established in the light of those circumstances. Such obligations would aim, inter alia, at a more efficient use of energy.

50. Some countries referred to the "polluter pays" principle as a corner-stone of the framework convention. Some emphasized that the countries whose per capita greenhouse gas emissions were high, and which emitted the most greenhouse gases in total, should reduce their emissions and co-operate with developing countries by compensating them for incremental costs involved in addressing climate change. Co-operation among all countries, developed and developing, was considered to be essential in the global effort to respond to climate change.

51. Some countries emphasized the need for the framework convention to contain provisions on scientific and economic research and the exchange of information and data in order to enhance understanding of global climate change.

52. It was suggested that the principles established under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer could serve as signposts to the way ahead. The Global Environment Facility (World Bank/UNEP/UNDP) was referred to in that context, as was the need for universality of the financial mechanism and equitability of the process.

53. A number of countries stated that the model of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer would not go far enough as a basis for a framework convention on climate change. Others expressed a different view.

54. It was stated that the framework convention must provide the right incentives for the development of technology and take into account all economic aspects of implementing measures to combat climate change.

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55. Some countries also mentioned the need to include within the framework convention procedures concerning the settlement of disputes, non-compliance and ongoing review and updating of the international response.

56. A strong sense of urgency in the development of an effective framework convention was thoroughly emphasized and the organizational pattern of negotiations was referred to by way of proposals for the establishment of working groups.

57. Many countries stressed the need to ensure the participation of developing countries, in particular that of the least developed among them and small island developing countries, in the negotiating process through provision of financial resources from the special voluntary fund established for that purpose by the General Assembly in paragraph 10 of its resolution 45/212. Several countries noted their commitments to contribute to the fund. Some countries also made commitments to contribute to the trust fund established by the Assembly in paragraph 20 of the resolution to support the negotiating process for a framework convention for the duration of the negotiations. It was noted that some countries were providing funds in a bilateral context.

58. Many countries emphasized the importance of technical co-operation in the fields of training, public awareness and information exchange relevant to the preparation and implementation of a framework convention and to the development of national policies in the field of climate change.

59. Most countries referred to their domestic policies and actions undertaken to mitigate climate change, develop new sources of energy and improve energy efficiency. Some countries mentioned their commitments to reduce considerably their emissions of greenhouse gases.

60. Some countries mentioned, in sorrow, the Gulf crisis and its effects.

B. Relations with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

61. The Chairman conducted informal consultations on the above subject and reported on them to the Committee. He stressed that the modalities of the relationship between the Committee and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change were set out in paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 45/212. The purpose of raising the subject was to allow countries to express their views on possible contributions by the Panel to the work of the Committee. The Chairman summarized the views expressed on the work of the Panel as follows:

(a) Appreciation was expressed for the outstanding work of the Panel and for the statement made by its Chairman, Mr. B. Bolin. Most countries welcomed his suggestions on the continuation of the work of the Panel.

(b) All countries agreed that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was not a negotiating forum, that it could provide technical and scientific assistance to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and that, since the Panel was an independent body and would continue its work as mandated by WMO and UNEP, it

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was for the Committee to decide which specific questions should be put, through its Executive Secretary, to the Panel at different stages.

(c) The desirability of the Panel's continuing to seek and achieve the full participation of developing countries in all aspects of its activity was emphasized. Views were also expressed that the lack of rules of procedure and the proliferation of subsidiary groups made the process of work of the Panel an extremely difficult one in which to participate.

(d) Certain countries suggested that in all its future activities the Panel should encourage the widest possible participation of experts and of relevant international and other organizations.

(e) Many countries presented various proposals and specific topics for the work the Panel should cover in both the short and the long term; the short-term work would assist the Committee in its negotiations leading to the preparation of a draft framework convention by the time of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; some of the tasks initiated to that end might also need to be continued into the long term.

(f) It was understood that the Executive Secretary would co-operate closely with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to ensure that the Panel could respond to the needs and requests for objective scientific and technical advice made during the negotiating process.

C. Funds set up pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/212

62. Many countries emphasized the need to ensure the participation in the negotiating process of developing countries, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing countries, through financial assistance from the special voluntary fund established for the purpose by the General Assembly in paragraph 10 of resolution 45/212. Statements were made by several countries and the representative of a regional economic integration organization concerning their intentions to contribute to the fund: by 13 February 1991 approximately \$US 1.25 million had been pledged, as shown in table 1. Some other countries indicated that they were in the process of considering pledges. Nevertheless, countries were very aware that demands on the fund during the whole period of the negotiations would considerably exceed the total of pledges made to date.

Table 1. Pledged contributions to the special voluntary fund to support the participation of developing countries, as at 14 February 1991

Contributor	Amount
Canada	\$Can 35 000 (\$US 30 000)
Denmark	\$US 100 000
European Community	ECU 100 000 - 150 000 ^{a/}
France	FF 400 000 (\$US 80 000)
Germany	\$US 200 000 (over 2 years)
Japan	\$US 200 000 ^{b/}
Netherlands	\$US 150 000
Norway	\$US 50 000
Spain	\$US 50 000
Sweden	SKr 500 000 (\$US 85 000)
Switzerland	SwF 300 000 (\$US 250 000)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	£ 30 000 (\$US 60 000)
United States of America	\$US 50 000
Total	<u>\$US 1 455 000</u>

^{a/} Up to a maximum of \$US 150,000.

^{b/} Announced on 14 February 1991; see para. 68.

63. Some countries stated that funds were being provided in bilateral contexts. One delegation stressed that the multilateral character of the special voluntary fund should be preserved.

64. Countries noted that reimbursement from the special voluntary fund for participation in the sessions of the Committee would be retroactive and so apply to the first session. Such reimbursement would cover subsistence (per diem) as well as travel costs. It was also noted that similar arrangements made in connection with participation in sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development were differentiated, providing for the payment of travel costs for one representative per developing country, on request, and of per diem to representatives of a limited category of developing countries, in that case the least developed countries.

65. One country indicated that it had made a commitment to contribute to the trust fund established by the General Assembly in paragraph 20 of its resolution 45/212, in order to support the negotiating process for the framework convention for the duration of the negotiations (see table 2).

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Table 2. Pledged contributions to the trust fund for the negotiating process, as at 13 February 1991

Contributor	Amount
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	£ 30 000 (\$US 60 000)

66. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Chairman drew the attention of the Committee to a draft decision entitled "Use of the special voluntary fund to support the participation of developing countries in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change", submitted by him (A/AC.237/L.4).

67. The Committee then adopted the draft decision (see annex II, decision 1/2).

68. Following the adoption of the decision, the representative of Japan made a statement in which he announced that his country would make a contribution of \$US 200,000 to the special voluntary fund.

IV. ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

A. Budget, staffing and location of the ad hoc secretariat

69. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February 1991, the Executive Secretary made a statement on the funding of the negotiating process, including the operating budget of the secretariat, and indicated that the adequacy of estimates made for staff and conference-servicing costs, as well as the source of funding for other costs, would have to be examined in the light of the work plan emerging from the session. He recalled that, in adopting the resolution that established the Committee and its secretariat, the General Assembly had received a statement indicating that no additional appropriations would be required in respect of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

70. Provision would have to be made for general operating costs, travel, consultants and documentation. Costs might also be incurred for activities aimed at raising awareness of the issues under negotiation, particularly in developing countries. Those could include public information work and dialogue with non-governmental organizations.

71. Once the overall cost of the negotiating process had been estimated, it was his intention, in consultation with the Chairman, to present such estimates to the Committee in advance of its next session. That would enable Governments to assess the need for contributions to the trust fund and to respond to it, also in advance of the session.

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72. On the question of staffing, he said that the arrangements for servicing the current meeting were specific to it. He would consult the responsible departments at United Nations Headquarters on the constitution of the secretariat, and the executive heads of UNEP and WMO, as well as other bodies, on the possibilities for secondment of staff.

73. Concerning the location of the secretariat at Geneva, he said there were options that he would explore on his return. It would be desirable to find a location that would maximize the ability of the Committee secretariat to draw upon existing infrastructures, thereby minimizing its own staffing and support needs. He drew attention to document A/AC.237/INF.2, entitled "Temporary secretariat arrangements", which indicated the present office address at the Palais des Nations at Geneva where he might be reached until further notice.

B. Dates and venues of the next sessions

74. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Chairman made a statement in which he outlined the difficulties involved in scheduling the next three sessions of the Committee in line with the proposals contained in paragraph 4 of resolution 45/212. These difficulties arose from the shortage of conference-servicing facilities and the need to avoid overlaps with related intergovernmental meetings.

75. It was decided, on a tentative basis, that the second session of the Committee should be held in June 1991, while the third and fourth sessions might take place in September and December 1991 respectively. The second session might be held at Nairobi, in which case the third and fourth would take place at Geneva. The Chairman stressed that both dates and venues were subject to change. Delegations would be informed as soon as a final decision could be taken.

76. Delegations pointed out the difficulties involved in their participation in the meetings and requested that they be informed well in advance of the dates decided upon.

C. Circulation of informal papers

77. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Chairman drew attention to the circulation at the session of several informal papers concerning the possible content of a framework convention and issues arising in its negotiation. It had been suggested to him that it would be desirable for all delegations and the secretariat to have access to a complete set of these informal papers. He invited those delegations which had circulated such papers, or wished to do so, to send them to the secretariat at Geneva, by 15 March if possible. The secretariat would make available to interested delegations copies of informal papers received by it in the original languages.

V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

78. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee, Mr. Ion Draghici (Romania), introduced and orally revised the draft report of the Committee on the work of its first session, as contained in documents A/AC.237/L.1 and Corr.2, Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, and Add.2-4.

79. The Committee then adopted the draft report as orally revised and requested the Rapporteur to complete the text, taking into account the proceedings of the Committee at its 11th plenary meeting, and to make the necessary editorial changes in the report as a whole, in conformity with established United Nations practice.

VI. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

80. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Chairman of the Committee in his closing statement summed up the positive achievements of the meeting and stressed the useful work done by the Committee at its first session in defining the mandates of the two Working Groups and thus setting the foundation for the negotiating process to be continued at the next sessions. It had also been important that all delegations representing industrialized countries had declared the commitments of their countries to action on specific measures aimed at limiting emissions of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, that might have an adverse effect on climate. Industrialized nations had a major role to play in this area, while developing countries must be assisted in becoming full partners in the negotiating process, as well as in initiating action to make efficient, non-polluting use of their energy resources, taking into account their individual development needs. Assistance in terms of financing and transfer of technology was an issue that would need to be addressed.

81. At the same meeting, the Chairman introduced a draft decision entitled "Expression of thanks to the Government and people of the United States of America". The Committee adopted the draft decision by acclamation (see annex II, decision 1/3).

82. Expressions of appreciation to the officers of the Committee, the secretariat and all those associated with the work of the session were voiced by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on behalf of the Eastern European States; Vanuatu, on behalf of the Asian and Pacific States, and also of the Alliance of Small Island States; Cuba, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States; Greece, on behalf of the Western European and other States; and Zaire, on behalf of the African States.

83. The Chairman thanked all those present for their participation in the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and declared the session closed.

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ANNEX I

Documents before the Committee at its first session

1. The following documents were made available to the Committee:

- (a) General Assembly resolution 44/207 of 22 December 1989, on the preparations for the negotiation of the framework convention on climate change
- (b) General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989, on the convening of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
- (c) A/45/696 and Add.1 Report of the Secretary-General on progress achieved in the implementation of resolution 44/207 on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind
- (d) General Assembly resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind"
- (e) A/AC.237/1 Provisional agenda
- (f) A/AC.237/1/Add.1 Annotated provisional agenda
- (g) A/AC.237/2 and Note by the Secretariat on the rules of procedure
Corr.1
- (h) A/AC.237/3 Tentative schedule of meetings
- (i) A/AC.237/4 Documents relating to the meeting
- (j) A/AC.237/5 Rules of procedure
- (k) A/AC.237/L.1 and Draft report
Corr.2, Add.1 and
Add.1/Corr.1,
and Add.2-4
- (l) A/AC.237/L.2 Proposal concerning the rules of procedure submitted
by the Vice-Chairman
- (m) A/AC.237/L.3 Proposal concerning subsidiary organs submitted by
the Vice-Chairman

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- (n) A/AC.237/L.4 Draft decision submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Use of the special voluntary fund to support the participation of developing countries in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change"
- (o) A/AC.237/L.5 Draft decision submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Establishment of subsidiary organs and organization of work"
- (p) A/AC.237/INF.1 and Corr.1 List of participants
- (q) A/AC.237/INF.2 Note by the secretariat on temporary secretariat arrangements

2. The following documents were also at the disposal of delegates:

- (a) First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (including its paper on legal measures)
- (b) Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Government Representatives to Prepare for Negotiations on a Framework Convention on Climate Change on its meeting held at Geneva from 24 to 26 September 1990

3. The following documents were available for consultation at the meeting:

- (a) A/44/48 Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the work of its organizational session (5-16 March 1990)
- (b) A/45/25 Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its second special session (1-3 August 1990)
- (c) A/45/46 Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the work of its first substantive session (6-31 August 1990)

ANNEX II

Decisions of the Committee

1/1. Establishment of subsidiary organs and organization of work

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. Decides to establish two Working Groups to assist the Committee in carrying out its work;
2. Adopts the guidelines for the negotiations, organization of Working Groups and procedural points contained in the annex to the present decision.

ANNEX

I. GUIDELINES FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS

1. All items in the negotiations should be dealt with in an integrated manner and on the basis of General Assembly resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, which, inter alia, reaffirms the principles embodied in General Assembly resolutions 44/207 and 44/228, both of 22 December 1989.
2. The work of the groups must be interrelated and will be integrated by the plenary. To this end the two Working Groups will report regularly to the plenary.
3. Funding commitments, mechanisms and means for transfer of technology to developing countries, as well as matters concerning international scientific and technological co-operation, should be an integral element in the negotiations.
4. The final agreement on the convention should cover in an integrated manner all areas of common concern, including, inter alia: (a) emissions; (b) sinks; (c) transfer of technology; (d) financial resources and funding mechanisms for developing countries; (e) international scientific and technological co-operation; and (f) measures to counter the effects of climate change and its possible adverse impact, particularly on small island developing countries, low-lying coastal, arid and semi-arid areas, tropical regions liable to seasonal flooding and areas prone to drought and desertification.

II. ORGANIZATION OF WORKING GROUPS

5. The Working Groups will prepare draft texts for consideration by the plenary.

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A. Working Group I: Commitments

6. Working Group I will prepare a text related to:

(a) Appropriate commitments, beyond those required by existing agreements, for limiting and reducing net emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, on the protection, enhancement and increase of sinks and reservoirs, and in support of measures to counter the adverse effects of climate change, taking into account that contributions should be equitably differentiated according to countries' responsibilities and their level of development;

(b) Appropriate commitments on adequate and additional financial resources to enable developing countries to meet incremental costs required to fulfil the commitments referred to above and to facilitate the transfer of technology expeditiously on a fair and most favourable basis;

(c) Commitments addressing the special situation of developing countries, taking into account their development needs, including, inter alia, the problems of small island developing countries, low-lying coastal areas and areas threatened by erosion, flooding, desertification and high urban atmospheric pollution; also taking into account the problems of economies in transition.

B. Working Group II: Mechanisms

7. Working Group II will prepare a text related to:

(a) Legal and institutional mechanisms, including, inter alia, entry into force, withdrawal, compliance and assessment and review;

(b) Legal and institutional mechanisms related to scientific co-operation, monitoring and information;

(c) Legal and institutional mechanisms related to adequate and additional financial resources and technological needs and co-operation, and technology transfer to developing countries corresponding to the commitments agreed to in Working Group I.

III. PROCEDURAL POINTS

8. There will be no more than two meetings held at any one time within the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

9. There will be no inter-sessional meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee Working Groups or any subgroups.

10. All drafting is to be done by each Working Group, within the framework of its mandate, subject to any subsequent need for harmonization.

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11. If and when it is deemed necessary, the Working Groups, subject to the approval of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, may establish ad hoc subgroups to deal with specific issues, with due respect to the understanding that no more than two meetings may be held at any one time. These groups would be reviewed continually to allow reformulation and adjustment in order to reflect the progress of the negotiations.

1/2. Use of the special voluntary fund to support the participation of developing countries in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. Welcomes the expressed intention of several Governments and a regional integration organization to contribute to the special voluntary fund established by the General Assembly in paragraph 10 of its resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990;

2. Urges Governments that are in a position to do so but have not yet done so to contribute to the special voluntary fund according to their possibilities at an early date and expresses the hope that those which have already done so will make further contributions;

3. Urges relevant bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, to contribute generously to the special voluntary fund and invites the Chairman of the Committee to convey this appeal to the executive heads of those bodies, as well as to those of other interested organizations;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Committee, in determining the eligibility of countries for access to the fund, to bear in mind the following considerations in addition to the criteria set out in paragraph 10 of resolution 45/212:

(a) The vulnerability of countries to the rise in sea-level, drought and desertification, and severe weather disturbances;

(b) The importance of financing the attendance of experts, including scientists, as members of delegations from developing countries;

(c) Adequate regional representation of developing countries;

(d) The important role of regional organizations in providing suitable technical support to the effective participation of developing countries in the negotiating process;

5. Invites donors and recipients of financial assistance to keep the Executive Secretary informed of their relevant funding arrangements, so that the special voluntary fund may be used to the greatest effect;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to facilitate the full and effective participation in the work of the Committee of developing countries, and indeed of all countries entitled to participate, by ensuring the timely and well-directed distribution of notifications, documentation and other information well in advance of Committee sessions, and by making adequate provision for this purpose within the capacities of the secretariat.

1/3. Expression of thanks to the Government and people of the United States of America

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Having met at Washington, D.C., from 4 to 14 February 1991 at the invitation of the Government of the United States of America,

Expresses its profound gratitude to the Government and people of the United States of America for their warm and generous hospitality and for the excellent facilities provided during the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.



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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING
COMMITTEE FOR A FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
First session
Washington, D.C., 4-14 February 1991

REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE
WORK OF ITS FIRST SESSION, HELD AT WASHINGTON, D.C.,
FROM 4 TO 14 FEBRUARY 1991

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change was held at Washington, D.C., from 4 to 14 February 1991, in the Westfields International Conference Center, at the invitation of the Government of the United States of America. The meeting was convened in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind", further to resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988 and 44/207 of 22 December 1989.

2. The Ad Hoc Working Group of Government Representatives to Prepare for Negotiations on a Framework Convention on Climate Change was convened by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at Geneva from 24 to 26 September 1990. The Ad Hoc Working Group made recommendations concerning the work of the first negotiating session. Other relevant material was provided in the statement and Ministerial Declaration of the Second World Climate Conference (A/45/696/Add.1, annexes II and III) and the First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the session

3. The session was opened by Mr. Antoine Blanca, Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. In a statement made on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, he welcomed all participants and emphasized that the only way to preserve the planet Earth was to remove the barriers that separate peoples and nations. What was needed at present was to deal not only with the symptoms of climate change, but also with its causes by rethinking the present wasteful style of living. The task before the international community was formidable: rethinking development in the North as well as in the South and ensuring stability and rationality as well as equity and justice between nations, peoples and individuals. Ethical and moral questions linked with the environment, which had previously been ignored for economic and other reasons, had suddenly become major and pressing preoccupations; accelerated climate change required the modification of relations among States, institutions and the exercise of power. This small planet had started to force mankind to act in concert. Peace also meant living in peace with the planet.

4. The Director-General further stated that the United Nations and its associated bodies, in particular UNEP and WMO, as well as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, had participated actively in the preparations for the negotiations. He emphasized the need for strategies that could integrate development with the necessary transfer of financial resources and environmentally safe technologies to developing countries. He drew attention to the parallel that existed between the San Francisco Conference and the process being set in motion at the present meeting. The San Francisco Conference was the result of war between people. The present meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee

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resulted from war between people and the planet. The framework convention on climate change, which should be signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, would be the keystone for a new global order based on justice, equity and long-lasting and environmentally sound development.

5. Mr. Michael R. Deland, Chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, warmly welcomed delegates to the United States of America on behalf of President Bush. The United States, he said, believed that a comprehensive strategy, built on a series of actions with a broad range of benefits, must flow from a commitment to economic growth and responsible stewardship of our planet. Action taken by the Government of the United States would result in greenhouse gas emissions in the year 2000 in the United States being equal to or below 1987 levels. Research and action must proceed in tandem and for that reason global climate research in the United States had increased fivefold since 1989. The United States Government would be seeking \$1.2 billion for the coming fiscal year and, in the words of President Bush, it was "prepared to work openly, diligently and respectfully toward achieving the goal of completing a climate change convention in time for its signature at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992". It was the height of irony, Mr. Deland observed, that as a constructive dialogue was beginning on the shared environmental future of mankind Saddam Hussein's premeditated release of crude oil into the Persian Gulf had inflicted enormous environmental damage. That act would not divert the United States from the task at hand, for which work must go on co-operatively, and those present should act as catalysts for an essential kind of peace - a peace between humanity and the planet.

6. The issues involved were complex and had many implications for present and future generations: the United States recognized the need to promote environmental stewardship for all the world's peoples, in a forum that was democratic and co-operative. There were several guiding principles. Efforts must be comprehensive, addressing a dynamic system of interactions between living things, the waters, land and sky. Agreements should be long term and adaptable; a convention was needed that committed all nations to meaningful action but was not a fixed formula; actions must be continuously reviewed and refined as knowledge and conditions changed. The approach should be inclusive, because the issues were global, involving the participation of all nations. A climate convention should take into account the financial and technological realities of all nations.

7. Mr. Deland ended with a quotation from a statement made by President Bush in April 1990:

"Those who have ascended the economic hill must break down the barriers to progress and assist others now making the climb."

8. Mr. Mostafa K. Tolba, the Executive Director of UNEP, emphasized in his statement that General Assembly resolution 45/212 showed a clear recognition that the actions needed to minimize climate change and stop global warming were complex and difficult. He expressed the willingness of UNEP to support those negotiations and fulfil its obligations under the resolution; positive guidance was expected from the UNEP Governing Council at its meeting in May 1991.

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9. He emphasized that since the negotiations had began the Gulf war had continued to cause great sorrow. All were concerned about the loss of human life, about the future of the world and about the disastrous environmental destruction that was resulting from the presence of oil in the fragile waters of the Persian Gulf, from the impact of dangerous substances on the air, land and waters, and of the climatic impacts of large-scale burning of the oil in the region. Noting the outcome of the Second World Climate Conference, he said that the mounting body of evidence of global warming and climate change gave urgency to the present negotiations and that the remaining uncertainties should act as a spur, not a restraint. There was much action that could be started now: technically feasible and cost-effective technologies existed that could reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the energy sector by at least 20 per cent in most industrialized countries by the year 2005; a 20-30 per cent reduction in methane emissions was also feasible. Many acts that reduced greenhouse gas emissions could be undertaken at negligible cost. He warned that the overall costs of this exercise in global survival would be enormous in the long term. Yet the cost of inaction would be much higher. The global warming problem required a global solution, and the lead must come from those who contributed most of the greenhouse gases. The 1992 Conference should be apprised not only of the results of the present negotiations but also of those of actions already taken at national level. The two core issues in the negotiations, which could not be avoided, were costs, including additional resources, and transfer of technology. It was imperative to bring into focus the issues of commodity prices, international terms of trade and other economic parameters. Sources of funding to meet the additional resources needed by developing countries to leap-frog the use of polluting technologies might involve carbon charges, users' fees, debt relief, tradeable permits and other innovative means. Any actions the developing world was expected to take to protect man's common environment should not have punitive effects on the vulnerable economies of the developing countries or act as an impediment to their badly needed development. The decision-making processes under the convention must be based on equity between North and South. The negotiations should likewise address such pivotal issues as defining the basis for calculating carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emission reductions; sources and sinks of greenhouse gases; alternative sources of energy; and liability and compensation.

10. Finally he emphasized that the two key words in resolution 45/212 were "effective" and "commitments"; that was what the framework convention was expected to contain. The goal of the convention should be to hold concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a safe level and to set achievable targets for energy efficiency and for afforestation. In that context the relation of the climate convention with other treaties, current or planned, should be clarified; the present convention should certainly include concrete commitments on how the industrialized world was planning to ensure full global partnership with the developing world. Rapid action in developing the climate convention should not come at the expense of its content.

11. Mr. G. O. P. Obasi, Secretary-General of WMO, stressed in his statement that the convention to be negotiated by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee would help ensure that the planet Earth continued to provide a home for the life it had nurtured. He observed that the first session of the Committee, which marked a milestone in history, was meeting on a record-breaking warm day for

Washington, D.C., in February. He recalled that the linkages between climate change and the habitability of the planet were identified in 1979 by the First World Climate Conference. Since then much had been learned through the World Climate Programme, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Second World Climate Conference. The Ministerial Declaration of the latter had recognized that a lack of full scientific certainty was no reason to postpone cost-effective action.

12. He stressed the importance of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in exploring interactions and feedbacks, including those involving the Earth/atmosphere system, so as to enhance understanding of the whole: understanding complex interactions was at least as important as understanding individual components. He assured delegations of WMO support in all areas where it was relevant: in helping identify research priorities and monitoring needs, for example; in collecting, analysing and interpreting data; in assisting the developing countries to acquire the skills and methods to study and understand the atmosphere; and in helping to provide administrative support and specialized expertise to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. As a concrete expression of his organization's willingness to help, and to ensure close co-operation between the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the ad hoc secretariat serving the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, he offered space for the ad hoc secretariat in the WMO premises at Geneva. He reminded delegates that much of man's knowledge rested on observations made by previous generations and that it was now essential that the proposed convention provide for the acquisition of the knowledge needed by future generations. He mentioned specific areas needing immediate action, including the oceans, the Global Atmosphere Watch and the Global Climate Observing System. At the Eleventh World Meteorological Congress he would invite members to consider how WMO might, in the spirit of General Assembly resolution 45/212, further contribute to the negotiations, which could be among the most far-reaching ever for socio-economic development and for future global security and survival. While the negotiations would be about climate change, protection of the atmosphere and environment, they would also be about fundamental global changes in energy policy and practices, the world's forests and the low-cost transfer of energy-efficient technologies to developing countries and funding of development pathways with low greenhouse gas emissions. The negotiations involved the very foundations of global security and the development of nations. He hoped that a framework convention would be ready for signature by the time of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

13. He wished the Committee undaunted energy and strength, a good spirit of collaboration and the wisdom to "think long-term but act urgently".

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B. Attendance

14. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States:

Afghanistan	France	Peru
Albania	Germany	Philippines
Algeria	Ghana	Poland
Antigua and Barbuda	Greece	Portugal
Argentina	Holy See	Republic of Korea
Australia	Hungary	Romania
Austria	Iceland	Saint Lucia
Bahamas	India	Samoa
Bangladesh	Indonesia	Senegal
Barbados	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Singapore
Belgium	Ireland	Solomon Islands
Bolivia	Italy	Spain
Botswana	Japan	Sri Lanka
Brazil	Kenya	Sweden
Brunei Darussalam	Kiribati	Switzerland
Bulgaria	Kuwait	Thailand
Burkina Faso	Lesotho	Trinidad and Tobago
Cameroon	Malaysia	Tunisia
Canada	Malta	Turkey
Chile	Marshall Islands	Tuvalu
China	Mexico	Uganda
Colombia	Micronesia	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
Comoros	Mongolia	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Costa Rica	Morocco	United Arab Emirates
Cuba	Myanmar	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Cyprus	Nauru	United States of America
Czechoslovakia	Netherlands	Uruguay
Denmark	New Zealand	Vanuatu
Djibouti	Nicaragua	Venezuela
Ecuador	Nigeria	Yugoslavia
Egypt	Norway	Zaire
El Salvador	Pakistan	Zambia
Ethiopia	Panama	
Fiji	Papua New Guinea	
Finland	Paraguay	

15. The following United Nations offices, organs and specialized agencies were represented at the meeting: Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and Centre for Science and Technology for Development of the Secretariat, United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC/UNEP/WMO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), World Bank, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as well as International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

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16. The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented at the meeting: Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC), Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO), Commonwealth Secretariat, European Community (EEC), International Energy Agency (IEA), Organization of African Unity (OAU), Organization of American States (OAS) and South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

17. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented:

Category I: International Chamber of Commerce and Inter-Parliamentary Union;

Category II: Bahai International Community, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, Greenpeace International, International Council of Environmental Law, International Human Rights Law Group, International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association and World Resources Institute.

Roster: Friends of the Earth, International Organization of Automobile Manufacturers, International Studies Association, National Audubon Society, Natural Resources Defense Council and Sierra Club.

18. The following other non-governmental organizations were represented: Airconditioning and Refrigeration Institute, Alliance for Responsible CFC Policy, Alliance to Save Energy, Alternative Fluorocarbons Environmental Acceptability Study, American Bar Association, American Gas Association, American Forestry Association, American Institute of Mining and Petroleum Engineers, American Iron and Steel Institute, American Mining Congress, American Petroleum Institute, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, Canadian Electrical Association, Celebrate Wild Alaska, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Centre for Atmospheric Chemistry, Centre for Global Change, Centre for International Environmental Law, Chemical Manufacturers Association, Climate Action Network, Climate Council, Climate Institute, Climate Network Europe, Compressed Gas Association, DECCAN Development Society, Ecological Society, Edison Electric Institute, Energy Research Institute, Environmental and Energy Study Institute, Environmental Defense Fund, Episcopal Diocese of Washington Commission on Peace and Environment, Equity and Global Climate Change, European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee, Foreign Policy Institute of Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Forum of Brazilian NGOs to UNCED 92, Global Climate Change, Global Climate Coalition, Harvard Global Environmental Change Program, Independent Ecological Centre, International Energy Studies, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Kenya Energy and Environment Organizations, Lega per l'Ambiente, Media Natura, Movimento Pro-Floresta da Tijuca, National Academy of Sciences, National Association of Manufacturers, National Coal Association, Pollution Probe, Project on Industry and the Environment, Save the Forests - Save the Planet, Socio-Economic Union, Stockholm Environmental Institute, Union of Concerned Scientists, US Chamber of Commerce, US Citizens Network, Uranium Institute, WALHI, Woods Hole Research Center, World Coal Institute, World Information Transfer and World Wildlife Fund.

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C. Election of officers

19. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 4 February, the Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Jean Ripert, Special Adviser to the Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, France as Chairman of the Committee.

20. In his statement, the Chairman thanked the Committee for the confidence placed in him by the election. He emphasized that he would make every effort to ensure the transparency and legitimacy of the negotiating process. The time for the development of the framework convention was very short, given the difficulties and differences existing between Governments and, in particular, their different capacities to respond to the problem of climate change. He expressed his confidence in the joint capacity of the representatives of the Governments present at the meeting to tackle the problem and in the concerted efforts of UNEP, WMO and the United Nations in supporting the negotiations. The quality of work in the field had been confirmed by the results of the Second World Climate Conference and the outcome of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. General Assembly resolution 45/212 confirmed the political will to act. The Chairman was confident that the Committee would develop a flexible strategy for the negotiation of the convention. He noted that in resolution 45/212 the General Assembly had recommended a Bureau consisting of a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, each of the five regional groups being represented by one member.

21. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 4 February, following informal negotiations with regional groups, four Vice-Chairmen were elected by acclamation, one of whom would act as Rapporteur.

22. The Bureau thus consisted of the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Jean Ripert (France)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif (Algeria)
Mr. Ion Draghici (Romania)
Mr. Raúl Estrada-Oyuela (Argentina)
Mr. T. Prabhakar Menon (India)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ion Draghici (Romania)

23. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, Mr. Chandrashekhar Dasgupta (India) was elected by acclamation Vice-Chairman in place of Mr. T. Prabhakar Menon (India).

D. Documentation

24. The documents before the Committee at its first session are listed in annex I to the present report.

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E. Secretariat

25. At the 8th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Chairman informed the Committee that the Secretary-General of the United Nations had appointed Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar as Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change and Director of its ad hoc secretariat.

26. At the 9th plenary meeting, on 11 February, the Chairman introduced Mr. Zammit Cutajar to the Committee and outlined his professional experience and career within the United Nations. The Executive Secretary expressed his conviction that the Committee could contribute to a more efficient and equitable use of the world's resources to satisfy human needs and human aspirations. Given that many actions required to counter climate change were also justified on other grounds, he saw prospects for a framework convention with substantive commitments and with productive linkages to more general programmes in other policy areas. Stressing the importance of full and effective participation in the negotiating process, he pledged his best efforts, with the support of his colleagues from the United Nations system, particularly UNEP and WMO, to respond to the needs and guidance of the Committee.

F. Adoption of the rules of procedure

27. At the 9th plenary meeting, on 11 February, the representative of the Office of Legal Affairs introduced proposed amendments to the draft rules of procedure (A/AC.237/2 and Corr.1). Further amendments were contained in document A/AC.237/L.2. The Committee adopted the draft rules of procedure, as amended (A/AC.237/5).

28. After the adoption of the rules of procedure, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, New Zealand and Vanuatu.

29. The representative of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, congratulated the Committee on reaching a compromise, which it considered to be the best possible outcome. The Community would have preferred some improvements in the rules, but did not raise its concern, as a proof of its readiness to compromise. He further confirmed the intention of the European Community to participate fully in the negotiating process of the Committee under the Committee's rules of procedure and expressed its expectation that that participation would take place in constructive co-operation with the other delegations.

30. The representative of New Zealand recalled that eligibility to participate in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee was determined principally by paragraph 2 of resolution 45/212, which provided that the Committee "should be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of its specialized agencies". In that context, his delegation affirmed that the adopted rules of procedure must, in so far as they related to the question of participation in the Committee's work, be interpreted in such a way that no restriction on that right to

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participate was to be inferred from any provision in the rules of procedure. In particular, but without prejudice to the foregoing, the word "State" where it appears in the rules was to be subject to an interpretation that was sufficient to ensure that "members of the specialized agencies" had full participatory rights in the Committee. That was so whether or not they were States Members of the United Nations.

31. The representative of Vanuatu, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, stated that they had joined the adoption by consensus of the rules of procedure with the understanding that the efforts to ensure the representation of the small island developing countries on the Bureau would continue. He thanked the Chairman of the Committee for his efforts in that regard and for the steps he had already taken and was continuing to take to ensure that participation in either a formal or informal manner.

G. Adoption of the agenda

32. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 February, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of the Bureau.
3. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Rules of procedure (A/AC.237/2 and Corr.1);
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
4. Preparation of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related instruments as might be agreed upon.
5. Adoption of the report.

H. Participation of non-governmental organizations

33. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 5 February, the Chairman referred to General Assembly resolution 45/212, which made explicit provision for the participation of non-governmental organizations. The Committee decided that, in order for the Committee to benefit from the important contribution that non-governmental organizations had to make on the subject of its discussion, two observers representing different groups of non-governmental organizations should be invited to speak at the end of the general debate.

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I. Establishment of subsidiary organs and organization of work

34. At the 10th plenary meeting, on 14 February, Mr. Raúl Estrada-Oyuela (Argentina), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, reported on the consultations that had taken place in the informal contact group concerning subsidiary organs and introduced specific proposals on the subject (A/AC.237/L.3).

35. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Chairman stated that, after further consultations on these proposals, he was submitting a draft decision entitled "Establishment of subsidiary organs and organization of work" (A/AC.237/L.5). That draft decision superseded document A/AC.237/L.3.

36. The Committee then adopted the draft decision (see annex II, decision 1/1).

37. After the adoption of the draft decision, a statement was made by the representative of Ghana (on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77 and China).

38. At the same meeting, the Chairman also made a statement concerning the composition of the bureaux of the two Working Groups. He indicated that the election of the members of the bureaux would be postponed until the second session of the Committee.

39. A number of delegations expressed their willingness to show flexibility in solving the problem and to work further with the Chairman to that end.

III. SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS

A. General debate

40. Statements were made in the general debate by representatives of 68 Member States, as well as by representatives of a number of entities and organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

41. Many countries stressed the importance of addressing the issue of global climate change in an integrated and comprehensive manner, taking into account all greenhouse gases, and their sources and sinks, and the need for phased and flexible long-term response strategies. Some of them also stressed that the efforts to address the global climate change issue should take full account of the special circumstances and needs of the developing countries and be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. A common theme was the need to undertake at present actions that were also justified on other grounds, such as increasing energy efficiency and developing new, alternative and renewable sources of energy. In that context, it was stated that conservation measures should be adopted and implemented as soon as possible and that consumer patterns in developed countries should be changed. The capacity of forests and oceans as sinks and the problems of forest protection and afforestation were referred to as particularly important.

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42. Many countries called for early finalization of the organizational part of the work of the Committee and for development of the first draft of the framework convention, which should be negotiated as soon as possible. They referred to the results of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to the Noordwijk, Hague, Cairo and other declarations and statements, and in particular the Ministerial Declaration of the Second World Climate Conference (A/45/696/Add.1, annex III); these should be taken into consideration in the development of the draft framework convention.

43. Most speakers referred to June 1992, the date of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as the date for the framework convention on climate change to be ready for signature. Some countries expressed the view that the negotiating process should concentrate on drafting the provisions of the framework convention, having in mind that preparation of related legal instruments and protocols could start at a later stage, taking into account the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. However, several countries stressed the need for negotiations to proceed in parallel on the framework convention and on protocols.

44. It was stated by several countries that actions should be based on the precautionary principle and on the best available scientific knowledge; that scientific uncertainties could not excuse inaction on global climate change; and that waiting for scientific proof could involve putting at risk the common future of humankind and its very existence. All countries recognized the need for continued research to enhance understanding of global climate change and its effects on the environment and humankind. Most countries strongly supported further development of scientific co-operation, monitoring and information exchange on scientific aspects of global climate change, including physical, chemical and biological processes, as well as on the impact of global climate change on forests, oceans and biological diversity. Many countries also referred to the need for advice to be available from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change during the negotiation process.

45. Some countries were of the view that the framework convention should contain general principles and general obligations, and that protocols, negotiated subsequently, could define commitments in a detailed and binding manner. Other countries emphasized that an effective framework convention on climate change should include firm commitments. Views expressed included the need to avoid arbitrary mechanical targets; to stabilize the emission of greenhouse gases by around the year 2000 at about 1990 levels; and to adopt targets for the reduction of emissions. Several countries advocated immediate and significant cuts in the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by industrialized countries. Several others emphasized that an effective framework convention on climate change should include specific commitments supplemented by protocols negotiated in parallel and urged all industrialized countries to undertake commitments to stabilize or reduce their carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. Some of those proposed that stabilization by industrialized countries of carbon dioxide emissions should in general be achieved by the year 2000 at 1990 levels.

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46. Many countries emphasized that an effective framework convention and any related legal instruments should be based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility, taking full account of the necessity for the energy consumption of developing countries to grow as their economies develop. A number of countries expressed the need for all countries to make commitments to address climate change. Many other countries referred to the need for specific commitments by developed countries to provide transfer of technology on a preferential and concessional basis, and new and additional financial resources to developing countries, to enable them to address global climate change.

47. Many countries emphasized the special vulnerability of low-lying areas and small island countries to the effects of climate change. Several countries emphasized that the physical and cultural survival of small island countries was threatened by global warming from both sea-level rise and coral bleaching; consequently, their particular needs should be recognized and provided for in the framework convention. It was acknowledged that the participation of those countries in the negotiating process should be assured.

48. Several countries emphasized the need for a particular understanding of the potentially dramatic impacts of climate change on arid and semi-arid areas.

49. Some countries pointed to the particular situation of States whose economies were in transition and noted that their obligations should be established in the light of those circumstances. Such obligations would aim, inter alia, at a more efficient use of energy.

50. Some countries referred to the "polluter pays" principle as a corner-stone of the framework convention. Some emphasized that the countries whose per capita greenhouse gas emissions were high, and which emitted the most greenhouse gases in total, should reduce their emissions and co-operate with developing countries by compensating them for incremental costs involved in addressing climate change. Co-operation among all countries, developed and developing, was considered to be essential in the global effort to respond to climate change.

51. Some countries emphasized the need for the framework convention to contain provisions on scientific and economic research and the exchange of information and data in order to enhance understanding of global climate change.

52. It was suggested that the principles established under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer could serve as signposts to the way ahead. The Global Environment Facility (World Bank/UNEP/UNDP) was referred to in that context, as was the need for universality of the financial mechanism and equitability of the process.

53. A number of countries stated that the model of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer would not go far enough as a basis for a framework convention on climate change. Others expressed a different view.

54. It was stated that the framework convention must provide the right incentives for the development of technology and take into account all economic aspects of implementing measures to combat climate change.

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55. Some countries also mentioned the need to include within the framework convention procedures concerning the settlement of disputes, non-compliance and ongoing review and updating of the international response.

56. A strong sense of urgency in the development of an effective framework convention was thoroughly emphasized and the organizational pattern of negotiations was referred to by way of proposals for the establishment of working groups.

57. Many countries stressed the need to ensure the participation of developing countries, in particular that of the least developed among them and small island developing countries, in the negotiating process through provision of financial resources from the special voluntary fund established for that purpose by the General Assembly in paragraph 10 of its resolution 45/212. Several countries noted their commitments to contribute to the fund. Some countries also made commitments to contribute to the trust fund established by the Assembly in paragraph 20 of the resolution to support the negotiating process for a framework convention for the duration of the negotiations. It was noted that some countries were providing funds in a bilateral context.

58. Many countries emphasized the importance of technical co-operation in the fields of training, public awareness and information exchange relevant to the preparation and implementation of a framework convention and to the development of national policies in the field of climate change.

59. Most countries referred to their domestic policies and actions undertaken to mitigate climate change, develop new sources of energy and improve energy efficiency. Some countries mentioned their commitments to reduce considerably their emissions of greenhouse gases.

60. Some countries mentioned, in sorrow, the Gulf crisis and its effects.

B. Relations with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

61. The Chairman conducted informal consultations on the above subject and reported on them to the Committee. He stressed that the modalities of the relationship between the Committee and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change were set out in paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 45/212. The purpose of raising the subject was to allow countries to express their views on possible contributions by the Panel to the work of the Committee. The Chairman summarized the views expressed on the work of the Panel as follows:

(a) Appreciation was expressed for the outstanding work of the Panel and for the statement made by its Chairman, Mr. B. Bolin. Most countries welcomed his suggestions on the continuation of the work of the Panel.

(b) All countries agreed that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was not a negotiating forum, that it could provide technical and scientific assistance to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and that, since the Panel was an independent body and would continue its work as mandated by WMO and UNEP, it

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was for the Committee to decide which specific questions should be put, through its Executive Secretary, to the Panel at different stages.

(c) The desirability of the Panel's continuing to seek and achieve the full participation of developing countries in all aspects of its activity was emphasized. Views were also expressed that the lack of rules of procedure and the proliferation of subsidiary groups made the process of work of the Panel an extremely difficult one in which to participate.

(d) Certain countries suggested that in all its future activities the Panel should encourage the widest possible participation of experts and of relevant international and other organizations.

(e) Many countries presented various proposals and specific topics for the work the Panel should cover in both the short and the long term; the short-term work would assist the Committee in its negotiations leading to the preparation of a draft framework convention by the time of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; some of the tasks initiated to that end might also need to be continued into the long term.

(f) It was understood that the Executive Secretary would co-operate closely with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to ensure that the Panel could respond to the needs and requests for objective scientific and technical advice made during the negotiating process.

C. Funds set up pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/212

62. Many countries emphasized the need to ensure the participation in the negotiating process of developing countries, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing countries, through financial assistance from the special voluntary fund established for the purpose by the General Assembly in paragraph 10 of resolution 45/212. Statements were made by several countries and the representative of a regional economic integration organization concerning their intentions to contribute to the fund: by 13 February 1991 approximately \$US 1.25 million had been pledged, as shown in table 1. Some other countries indicated that they were in the process of considering pledges. Nevertheless, countries were very aware that demands on the fund during the whole period of the negotiations would considerably exceed the total of pledges made to date.

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Table 1. Pledged contributions to the special voluntary fund to support the participation of developing countries, as at 14 February 1991

Contributor	Amount
Canada	\$Can 35 000 (\$US 30 000)
Denmark	\$US 100 000
European Community	ECU 100 000 - 150 000 ^{a/}
France	FF 400 000 (\$US 80 000)
Germany	\$US 200 000 (over 2 years)
Japan	\$US 200 000 ^{b/}
Netherlands	\$US 150 000
Norway	\$US 50 000
Spain	\$US 50 000
Sweden	SKr 500 000 (\$US 85 000)
Switzerland	SwF 300 000 (\$US 250 000)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	£ 30 000 (\$US 60 000)
United States of America	\$US 50 000
Total	<u>\$US 1 455 000</u>

^{a/} Up to a maximum of \$US 150,000.

^{b/} Announced on 14 February 1991; see para. 68.

63. Some countries stated that funds were being provided in bilateral contexts. One delegation stressed that the multilateral character of the special voluntary fund should be preserved.

64. Countries noted that reimbursement from the special voluntary fund for participation in the sessions of the Committee would be retroactive and so apply to the first session. Such reimbursement would cover subsistence (per diem) as well as travel costs. It was also noted that similar arrangements made in connection with participation in sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development were differentiated, providing for the payment of travel costs for one representative per developing country, on request, and of per diem to representatives of a limited category of developing countries, in that case the least developed countries.

65. One country indicated that it had made a commitment to contribute to the trust fund established by the General Assembly in paragraph 20 of its resolution 45/212, in order to support the negotiating process for the framework convention for the duration of the negotiations (see table 2).

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Table 2. Pledged contributions to the trust fund for the negotiating process, as at 13 February 1991

Contributor	Amount
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	£ 30 000 (\$US 60 000)

66. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Chairman drew the attention of the Committee to a draft decision entitled "Use of the special voluntary fund to support the participation of developing countries in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change", submitted by him (A/AC.237/L.4).

67. The Committee then adopted the draft decision (see annex II, decision 1/2).

68. Following the adoption of the decision, the representative of Japan made a statement in which he announced that his country would make a contribution of \$US 200,000 to the special voluntary fund.

IV. ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

A. Budget, staffing and location of the ad hoc secretariat

69. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February 1991, the Executive Secretary made a statement on the funding of the negotiating process, including the operating budget of the secretariat, and indicated that the adequacy of estimates made for staff and conference-servicing costs, as well as the source of funding for other costs, would have to be examined in the light of the work plan emerging from the session. He recalled that, in adopting the resolution that established the Committee and its secretariat, the General Assembly had received a statement indicating that no additional appropriations would be required in respect of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

70. Provision would have to be made for general operating costs, travel, consultants and documentation. Costs might also be incurred for activities aimed at raising awareness of the issues under negotiation, particularly in developing countries. Those could include public information work and dialogue with non-governmental organizations.

71. Once the overall cost of the negotiating process had been estimated, it was his intention, in consultation with the Chairman, to present such estimates to the Committee in advance of its next session. That would enable Governments to assess the need for contributions to the trust fund and to respond to it, also in advance of the session.

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72. On the question of staffing, he said that the arrangements for servicing the current meeting were specific to it. He would consult the responsible departments at United Nations Headquarters on the constitution of the secretariat, and the executive heads of UNEP and WMO, as well as other bodies, on the possibilities for secondment of staff.

73. Concerning the location of the secretariat at Geneva, he said there were options that he would explore on his return. It would be desirable to find a location that would maximize the ability of the Committee secretariat to draw upon existing infrastructures, thereby minimizing its own staffing and support needs. He drew attention to document A/AC.237/INF.2, entitled "Temporary secretariat arrangements", which indicated the present office address at the Palais des Nations at Geneva where he might be reached until further notice.

B. Dates and venues of the next sessions

74. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Chairman made a statement in which he outlined the difficulties involved in scheduling the next three sessions of the Committee in line with the proposals contained in paragraph 4 of resolution 45/212. These difficulties arose from the shortage of conference-servicing facilities and the need to avoid overlaps with related intergovernmental meetings.

75. It was decided, on a tentative basis, that the second session of the Committee should be held in June 1991, while the third and fourth sessions might take place in September and December 1991 respectively. The second session might be held at Nairobi, in which case the third and fourth would take place at Geneva. The Chairman stressed that both dates and venues were subject to change. Delegations would be informed as soon as a final decision could be taken.

76. Delegations pointed out the difficulties involved in their participation in the meetings and requested that they be informed well in advance of the dates decided upon.

C. Circulation of informal papers

77. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Chairman drew attention to the circulation at the session of several informal papers concerning the possible content of a framework convention and issues arising in its negotiation. It had been suggested to him that it would be desirable for all delegations and the secretariat to have access to a complete set of these informal papers. He invited those delegations which had circulated such papers, or wished to do so, to send them to the secretariat at Geneva, by 15 March if possible. The secretariat would make available to interested delegations copies of informal papers received by it in the original languages.

V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

78. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee, Mr. Ion Draghici (Romania), introduced and orally revised the draft report of the Committee on the work of its first session, as contained in documents A/AC.237/L.1 and Corr.2, Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, and Add.2-4.

79. The Committee then adopted the draft report as orally revised and requested the Rapporteur to complete the text, taking into account the proceedings of the Committee at its 11th plenary meeting, and to make the necessary editorial changes in the report as a whole, in conformity with established United Nations practice.

VI. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

80. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Chairman of the Committee in his closing statement summed up the positive achievements of the meeting and stressed the useful work done by the Committee at its first session in defining the mandates of the two Working Groups and thus setting the foundation for the negotiating process to be continued at the next sessions. It had also been important that all delegations representing industrialized countries had declared the commitments of their countries to action on specific measures aimed at limiting emissions of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, that might have an adverse effect on climate. Industrialized nations had a major role to play in this area, while developing countries must be assisted in becoming full partners in the negotiating process, as well as in initiating action to make efficient, non-polluting use of their energy resources, taking into account their individual development needs. Assistance in terms of financing and transfer of technology was an issue that would need to be addressed.

81. At the same meeting, the Chairman introduced a draft decision entitled "Expression of thanks to the Government and people of the United States of America". The Committee adopted the draft decision by acclamation (see annex II, decision 1/3).

82. Expressions of appreciation to the officers of the Committee, the secretariat and all those associated with the work of the session were voiced by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on behalf of the Eastern European States; Vanuatu, on behalf of the Asian and Pacific States, and also of the Alliance of Small Island States; Cuba, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States; Greece, on behalf of the Western European and other States; and Zaire, on behalf of the African States.

83. The Chairman thanked all those present for their participation in the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and declared the session closed.

ANNEX I

Documents before the Committee at its first session

1. The following documents were made available to the Committee:
 - (a) General Assembly resolution 44/207 of 22 December 1989, on the preparations for the negotiation of the framework convention on climate change
 - (b) General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989, on the convening of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
 - (c) A/45/696 and Add.1 Report of the Secretary-General on progress achieved in the implementation of resolution 44/207 on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind
 - (d) General Assembly resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind"
 - (e) A/AC.237/1 Provisional agenda
 - (f) A/AC.237/1/Add.1 Annotated provisional agenda
 - (g) A/AC.237/2 and Corr.1 Note by the Secretariat on the rules of procedure
 - (h) A/AC.237/3 Tentative schedule of meetings
 - (i) A/AC.237/4 Documents relating to the meeting
 - (j) A/AC.237/5 Rules of procedure
 - (k) A/AC.237/L.1 and Corr.2, Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, and Add.2-4 Draft report
 - (l) A/AC.237/L.2 Proposal concerning the rules of procedure submitted by the Vice-Chairman
 - (m) A/AC.237/L.3 Proposal concerning subsidiary organs submitted by the Vice-Chairman

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- (n) A/AC.237/L.4 Draft decision submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Use of the special voluntary fund to support the participation of developing countries in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change"
- (o) A/AC.237/L.5 Draft decision submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Establishment of subsidiary organs and organization of work"
- (p) A/AC.237/INF.1 and Corr.1 List of participants
- (q) A/AC.237/INF.2 Note by the secretariat on temporary secretariat arrangements

2. The following documents were also at the disposal of delegates:

- (a) First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (including its paper on legal measures)
- (b) Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Government Representatives to Prepare for Negotiations on a Framework Convention on Climate Change on its meeting held at Geneva from 24 to 26 September 1990

3. The following documents were available for consultation at the meeting:

- (a) A/44/48 Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the work of its organizational session (5-16 March 1990)
- (b) A/45/25 Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its second special session (1-3 August 1990)
- (c) A/45/46 Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the work of its first substantive session (6-31 August 1990)

ANNEX II

Decisions of the Committee

1/1. Establishment of subsidiary organs and organization of work

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. Decides to establish two Working Groups to assist the Committee in carrying out its work;
2. Adopts the guidelines for the negotiations, organization of Working Groups and procedural points contained in the annex to the present decision.

ANNEX

I. GUIDELINES FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS

1. All items in the negotiations should be dealt with in an integrated manner and on the basis of General Assembly resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, which, inter alia, reaffirms the principles embodied in General Assembly resolutions 44/207 and 44/228, both of 22 December 1989.
2. The work of the groups must be interrelated and will be integrated by the plenary. To this end the two Working Groups will report regularly to the plenary.
3. Funding commitments, mechanisms and means for transfer of technology to developing countries, as well as matters concerning international scientific and technological co-operation, should be an integral element in the negotiations.
4. The final agreement on the convention should cover in an integrated manner all areas of common concern, including, inter alia: (a) emissions; (b) sinks; (c) transfer of technology; (d) financial resources and funding mechanisms for developing countries; (e) international scientific and technological co-operation; and (f) measures to counter the effects of climate change and its possible adverse impact, particularly on small island developing countries, low-lying coastal, arid and semi-arid areas, tropical regions liable to seasonal flooding and areas prone to drought and desertification.

II. ORGANIZATION OF WORKING GROUPS

5. The Working Groups will prepare draft texts for consideration by the plenary.

/...

A. Working Group I: Commitments

6. Working Group I will prepare a text related to:

(a) Appropriate commitments, beyond those required by existing agreements, for limiting and reducing net emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, on the protection, enhancement and increase of sinks and reservoirs, and in support of measures to counter the adverse effects of climate change, taking into account that contributions should be equitably differentiated according to countries' responsibilities and their level of development;

(b) Appropriate commitments on adequate and additional financial resources to enable developing countries to meet incremental costs required to fulfil the commitments referred to above and to facilitate the transfer of technology expeditiously on a fair and most favourable basis;

(c) Commitments addressing the special situation of developing countries, taking into account their development needs, including, inter alia, the problems of small island developing countries, low-lying coastal areas and areas threatened by erosion, flooding, desertification and high urban atmospheric pollution; also taking into account the problems of economies in transition.

B. Working Group II: Mechanisms

7. Working Group II will prepare a text related to:

(a) Legal and institutional mechanisms, including, inter alia, entry into force, withdrawal, compliance and assessment and review;

(b) Legal and institutional mechanisms related to scientific co-operation, monitoring and information;

(c) Legal and institutional mechanisms related to adequate and additional financial resources and technological needs and co-operation, and technology transfer to developing countries corresponding to the commitments agreed to in Working Group I.

III. PROCEDURAL POINTS

8. There will be no more than two meetings held at any one time within the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

9. There will be no inter-sessional meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee Working Groups or any subgroups.

10. All drafting is to be done by each Working Group, within the framework of its mandate, subject to any subsequent need for harmonization.

/...

11. If and when it is deemed necessary, the Working Groups, subject to the approval of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, may establish ad hoc subgroups to deal with specific issues, with due respect to the understanding that no more than two meetings may be held at any one time. These groups would be reviewed continually to allow reformulation and adjustment in order to reflect the progress of the negotiations.

1/2. Use of the special voluntary fund to support the participation of developing countries in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. Welcomes the expressed intention of several Governments and a regional integration organization to contribute to the special voluntary fund established by the General Assembly in paragraph 10 of its resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990;

2. Urges Governments that are in a position to do so but have not yet done so to contribute to the special voluntary fund according to their possibilities at an early date and expresses the hope that those which have already done so will make further contributions;

3. Urges relevant bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, to contribute generously to the special voluntary fund and invites the Chairman of the Committee to convey this appeal to the executive heads of those bodies, as well as to those of other interested organizations;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Committee, in determining the eligibility of countries for access to the fund, to bear in mind the following considerations in addition to the criteria set out in paragraph 10 of resolution 45/212:

(a) The vulnerability of countries to the rise in sea-level, drought and desertification, and severe weather disturbances;

(b) The importance of financing the attendance of experts, including scientists, as members of delegations from developing countries;

(c) Adequate regional representation of developing countries;

(d) The important role of regional organizations in providing suitable technical support to the effective participation of developing countries in the negotiating process;

5. Invites donors and recipients of financial assistance to keep the Executive Secretary informed of their relevant funding arrangements, so that the special voluntary fund may be used to the greatest effect;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to facilitate the full and effective participation in the work of the Committee of developing countries, and indeed of all countries entitled to participate, by ensuring the timely and well-directed distribution of notifications, documentation and other information well in advance of Committee sessions, and by making adequate provision for this purpose within the capacities of the secretariat.

1/3. Expression of thanks to the Government and people of the United States of America

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Having met at Washington, D.C., from 4 to 14 February 1991 at the invitation of the Government of the United States of America,

Expresses its profound gratitude to the Government and people of the United States of America for their warm and generous hospitality and for the excellent facilities provided during the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

UNITED
NATIONS



General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/45/L.93
11 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 81

PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of
the Committee, Mr. Ahmed Amasiane (Morocco), on the
basis of informal consultations held on draft
resolution A/C.2/45/L.66

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988 and 44/207 of 22 December 1989, in which it recognized that climate change is a common concern of mankind, and urging Governments, and as appropriate, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions, to collaborate in a concerted effort with the aim of preparing, as a matter of urgency, a framework convention on climate, and other related instruments, containing appropriate commitments for actions to combat climate change and its adverse effects, taking into account the most up-to-date sound scientific knowledge and any existing uncertainties, as well as the particular needs and development priorities of developing countries,

Recalling also its resolution 44/206 of 22 December 1989 on the possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, in particular low-lying coastal areas,

Recalling further its resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, (UNCED)

Noting the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and of the Executive Council of the World Meteorological Organization,

Noting also the recommendations and decisions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, adopted at its organizational session and at its first session, 1/

Noting further the important work accomplished by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which has completed its first assessment report,

Noting the relevant conclusions and recommendations on climate change adopted at various intergovernmental meetings during 1990,

Noting the fact that the largest part of the current emission of pollutants into the environment originates in developed countries, and recognizing therefore that those countries have the main responsibility for combating such pollution,

Welcoming the fact that several countries and a regional economic integration organization have already taken measures or made specific commitments to address the problem of climate change and its effects through the stabilization and/or reduction of environmentally harmful emissions of greenhouse gases and that other countries are contemplating doing so,

Sep 24
Noting that, pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 44/207, resolution 4 (EC-XLII) of 22 June 1990 of the Executive Council of the World Meteorological Organization and decision SS.II/3 of 3 August 1990, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its second special session, an Ad Hoc Working Group of Government Representatives to prepare for negotiations on a framework convention on climate change met at Geneva from 24 to 26 September 1990 and adopted a number of recommendations, 2/

Recognizing the continuing need for scientific research into the sources and effects of climate change and its possible adverse impact, including the socio-economic consequences, and the effectiveness of possible response strategies, and recognizing also the importance of the active participation of developing countries and the need to assist and co-operate with them in climate related research and action,

1. Decides to establish a single intergovernmental negotiating process under the auspices of the General Assembly, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, for the preparation by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related instruments as

1/ See A/44/48 and A/45/46.

2/ A/45/696, annex I.

might be agreed upon, taking into account proposals that may be submitted by States participating in the negotiating process, the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the results achieved at international meetings on the subject, including the Second World Climate Conference;

2. Decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee should be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly;

3. Welcomes the organization of broad-based preparatory processes at the national level involving, as appropriate, the scientific community, industry, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and other interested groups;

3-4 m.
minutes

4. Decides that the first negotiating session should be held at Washington, D.C. in February 1991 and that, subject to review of the timetable at the end of each negotiating session and taking into account the schedule of other intergovernmental meetings on environment and development matters, in particular the sessions of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, further meetings should be held at Geneva and at Nairobi, in May/June 1991, September 1991 and, as appropriate, between January and June 1992;

5. Authorizes the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the assistance of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, pending the establishment of an ad hoc secretariat for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, to convene, exceptionally, the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, to be held at Washington, D.C. in February 1991; subsequent sessions of the Committee shall be convened by the ad hoc secretariat;

6. Further decides that the maximum duration of each of the negotiating sessions should be two weeks;

7. Considers that the negotiations for the preparation of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related legal instruments as might be agreed upon, should be completed prior to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992 and opened for signature during the Conference;

8. Reaffirms the principles embodied in its resolutions 44/207 and 44/228, which take into account the concerns of all States and the specific needs of developing countries;

9. Takes account of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Second World Climate Conference, held at Geneva, Switzerland, from 29 October to 7 November 1990; 3/

A/C.2/45/L.93
English
Page 4

10. Decides to establish a special voluntary fund, administered by the of the ad hoc secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to ensure that developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, as well as small island developing countries, are able to participate fully and effectively in the negotiating process, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations, and other interest organizations to contribute generously to the fund;

11. Recommends that at the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, to be held at Washington, D.C., a Bureau consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur shall be elected, each of the five regional groups being represented by one member;

12. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, as well as with the executive heads of other United Nations bodies with expertise in the field of development, to establish as soon as possible at Geneva an ad hoc secretariat of appropriate size and quality, consisting mainly of Professional staff of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, taking into account the need to ensure that the work programmes of these two organizations are not negatively affected, co-ordinated by those two organizations in consultation and co-operation with the head of the ad hoc secretariat and supplemented by staff from other bodies of the United Nations system, as appropriate, in order to ensure that the ad hoc secretariat embodies the required technical expertise;

13. Decides that the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the head of the ad hoc secretariat a senior official of an appropriate level, who shall act under the guidance of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

14. Requests the head of the ad hoc secretariat to co-operate closely with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to ensure that the panel can respond to the needs and requests for objective scientific and technical advice made during the negotiating process;

15. Also requests the head of the ad hoc secretariat to make available, at the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, the first assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, its paper on legal measures and the background documentation prepared for the Panel as input for the negotiations, as well as the Ministerial Declaration of the Second World Climate Conference 4/ and other relevant documents;

16. Requests the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, through the ad hoc secretariat and taking into account the relevance of the negotiations to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to keep the Preparatory Committee and the Secretary-General of the Conference, as well as the

Secretary-General of the United Nations, informed in a timely manner through regular progress reports, of the progress of the negotiations;

17. Requests the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to take into account, as appropriate, any relevant developments in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development that the Preparatory Committee may bring to its attention;

18. Requests the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, on behalf of the Committee to submit a report to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 on the outcome of the negotiations, as well as on possible future steps in the field of climate change;

19. Invites relevant non-governmental organizations to make contributions to the negotiating process, as appropriate, on the understanding that these organizations shall not have any negotiating role during the process and taking into account decision 1/1 concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations, adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its first session; 5/

20. Decides that the negotiating process should be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities and through voluntary contributions to a trust fund established specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations and administered by the head of the ad hoc secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

21. Invites the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including those in the field of development, to make appropriate contributions to the negotiating process, including its funding;

22. Invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations to contribute generously to the trust fund;

23. Requests the head of the ad hoc secretariat to prepare draft rules of procedure for consideration by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its first session;

24. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the progress of the negotiations;

25. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session, the item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

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TELEGRAM

Department of State

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 APPROVED BY: OES/E:R A REINSTEIN
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 S/S-O:J SHEARBURN

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ALSO FOR USEC/USOEC/USIAEA

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: SENV, EFIN, ETRD, AORC, ENRG, KSCA, UN
 SUBJECT: INVITATION TO FIRST NEGOTIATING SESSION FOR A
 FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE: FEBRUARY 4-14 IN
 WASHINGTON, DC

1. ON DECEMBER 28, THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED BY FAX FROM UN
 SECRETARIAT A COPY OF A LETTER DATED DECEMBER 21 INFORMING
 PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF UN MEMBER STATES AND

PERMANENT OBSERVERS OF NON-MEMBER STATES THAT THE FIRST
 SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
 WILL BE HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C., FROM FEBRUARY 4-14,
 1991. IT ASKS ADDRESSEES TO INFORM THE SECRETARY GENERAL
 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER THEIR GOVERNMENTS INTEND TO
 PARTICIPATE AND TO COMMUNICATE THE NAMES OF PERSONS WHO
 WILL ATTEND THE SESSION. A SIMILAR LETTER, ALSO DATED
 DECEMBER 21, WAS SENT BY UN UNDER-SECRETARY SPIERS TO UN
 ORGANIZATIONS. THE TEXT OF LETTER TO GOVERNMENT
 REPRESENTATIVES FOLLOWS AT PARA. 3.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO CONFIRM
 INFORMALLY THAT APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE
 RECEIVED THIS LETTER OF INVITATION. DEPARTMENT WILL
 FORWARD A COPY OF UN SECRETARIAT INFORMATION NOTE ON
 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEGOTIATING SESSION AS SOON AS IT IS
 RECEIVED AND WILL ASK POSTS AT THAT TIME TO DEMARCHE HOST
 GOVERNMENTS WITH COPIES OF BOTH THE LETTER AND THE NOTE.

3. TEXT OF LETTER OF INVITATION: "THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
 OF THE UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS HIS COMPLIMENTS TO
 AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
 45/212 OF 21 DECEMBER 1990, ENTITLED "PROTECTION OF GLOBAL
 CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND" IN
 WHICH, INTER ALIA, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECIDED TO
 ESTABLISH A SINGLE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING PROCESS
 UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SUPPORTED BY
 THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME AND THE WORLD
 METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE PREPARATION BY AN
 INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE OF AN EFFECTIVE
 FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

IN THE AFOREMENTIONED RESOLUTION, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 ALSO DECIDED THAT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING
 COMMITTEE SHOULD BE OPEN TO ALL STATES MEMBERS OF THE
 UNITED NATIONS OR MEMBERS OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF
 THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF
 OBSERVERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ESTABLISHED PRACTICE OF

STATE 436419 311846Z

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. IT FURTHER DECIDED THAT THE FIRST
 NEGOTIATING SESSION SHOULD BE HELD AT WASHINGTON, D.C. IN
 FEBRUARY 1991 AND AUTHORIZED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE
 UNITED NATIONS WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE EXECUTIVE
 DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME AND
 THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL
 ORGANIZATION, PENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD HOC
 SECRETARIAT FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING
 COMMITTEE, TO CONVENE, EXCEPTIONALLY, THE FIRST SESSION OF
 THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE.

ACCORDINGLY, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS THE HONOUR TO
 INFORM HIS/HER EXCELLENCY THAT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE
 INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD IN
 WASHINGTON, D.C., UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FROM 4-14
 FEBRUARY 1991 AT THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE
 SESSION AND AN INFORMATION NOTE CONCERNING THE VENUE
 REGISTRATION AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE ISSUED SHORTLY
 AND COMMUNICATED UNDER COVER OF A SEPARATE NOTE VERBALE.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF HIS/HER
 EXCELLENCY WOULD INFORM HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER
 HIS/HER GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF

THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE AND, IF IN THE
 AFFIRMATIVE, TO COMMUNICATE TO HIM THE NAMES OF THE
 PERSONS WHO WILL ATTEND THE SESSION."

END TEXT
 KIMMITT

*Negotiations
 after
 (A) info file*

UNCLASSIFIED

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

POSTAL ADDRESS—ADRESSE POSTALE: UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017
CABLE ADDRESS—ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE: UNATIONS NEWYORK

REFERENCE: INC/First session 1991

The Secretary-General presents his compliments to and has the honour to refer to its note of 21 December 1990 concerning, inter alia, the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a framework convention on climate change to be held in Washington, D.C. 4-14 February 1991 at the invitation of the Government of the United States of America. An informal Information Note on material arrangements for the Session is attached.

4 January 1991

UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR
A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

FIRST SESSION

WASHINGTON, D.C., USA, 4-14 FEBRUARY 1991

INFORMAL INFORMATION NOTE ON MATERIAL ARRANGEMENTS
FOR THE SESSION

Place and date of the session

1. At the kind invitation of the Government of the United States, the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a framework convention on climate change will take place in Washington, D.C., from 4 to 14 February 1991. The Government of the United States will host a welcome reception in the Westfields Center from 1800 to 1930 on Sunday, 3 February 1991. The session will begin promptly at 1000 on Monday, 4 February 1991. Participants are asked to be seated in their places in the Plenary Hall by 0945 hrs.

Registration of participants

2. Registration will take place at the Westfields Conference Center on:

Sunday, 3 February from 1600 to 2000 and on
Monday, 4 February from 0800 to 1800

Participants are urged to register on Sunday, if possible. Pre-registration for the conference is encouraged and Annex I is provided for that purpose. It should be returned to the address indicated as soon as possible.

Composition of delegations

3. Each State which intends to participate in the work of the Committee is requested to communicate to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, Room S-3727 United Nations Headquarters, UN Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA (telephone (212) 963-5102; Fax (212) 963-3892), the names of the persons composing its delegation, indicating which of these shall be regarded as the Chairman of the delegation. Observers are

requested to similarly communicate to the Director-General the names of the persons composing their observer delegation.

List of participants

4. A provisional list of participants will be distributed at the beginning of the session. This list will be revised as soon as all participants have registered, and a new list will be issued.

Applications for Funding

5. Information on applications for funding the participation of developing countries will be provided in an addendum to this note as soon as possible.

Travel and local transportation

6. Participants are advised that the most convenient international arrival point in Washington is Dulles International Airport, which is located 11 km (approximately 15 minutes' drive) from the Conference Center. A shuttle bus service between Washington Dulles and the Conference Center can be arranged (for approximately US \$9 per person) to meet national delegates and observers who arrive at Dulles. Those who wish to use this service should notify the Westfields Conference Center, Conference Director (FCCC), of their flight number and expected time of arrival, at least 48 hours in advance. (Fax and telephone numbers are in paragraph 14 below).

7. Taxis are also available between Dulles Airport and the Conference Center. They run on a meter basis; the cost is approximately US \$12 or US \$13 one way.

8. Buses run between Washington National Airport and Dulles International Airport. Washington Flyer buses leave the National Airport every day of the week and every hour, on the hour, between 0600 and 2200. The cost is US \$12 one way or US \$22 for the round trip. Travel time between National Airport and Dulles Airport is approximately 45 minutes. Tickets may be purchased at the Washington Flyer Information Desk, located just outside the Washington National Airport main terminal, near United Airlines.

9. Participants are advised that there is no public transport between the Conference area and central Washington; taxis and rental cars are expensive (a taxi, one way, costs about US \$35) and is time consuming, especially during rush hours; participants are strongly advised to make use of the especially advantageous arrangements made for the conference, described in paragraph 10 below.

Hotel reservation

10. A special package rate for accommodation for the period 3 to 14 February (inclusive) has been arranged with the Westfields Center. The package rate is US \$130 per day (or part thereof), and includes room, all meals and access to extensive recreation facilities. 310 rooms are available on site at the Center and can be reserved on a first come first served basis (except that until 21 January, priority will be given to national delegations). When the Conference Center itself is filled, Westfields will arrange accommodation as needed at a nearby corresponding hotel, which will have a shuttle service operating to and from the Conference Center.

11. Participants will be responsible for making their own hotel arrangements but are most strongly advised to make use of the advantageous rates negotiated with the Westfields Conference Center. National delegations may find it convenient to make their reservations through their country's mission in Washington or New York.

12. Please use Annex II of this information note to make your hotel reservation.

13. All participants are advised that hotels in the United States normally require guests either to present a credit card on registration or to pay in advance.

Mail and communications

14. Mail for participants may be addressed to:

Dr/Mrs/Miss/Mr.....
c/o Conference Director (FCCC)
Westfields International Conference Center
14750 Conference Center Drive
Virginia 22021, USA

Telephone: (703) 818 0300
Fax: (703) 818 3655

15. An airline and car rental desk will be available at the Conference Center for participants' use. A variety of tourist activities will be available on Saturday, 9 February, and Sunday, 10 February. Participants should make their bookings at the Conference Center's travel service support desk.

Entry formalities

16. All participants will require a valid passport and visa for admission to the United States of America. Participants are requested to obtain such visas at the nearest Consulate of the

United States of America as soon as possible. As a rule it is not possible to acquire a visa on entry into the United States.

Health requirements

17. There are no specific vaccination requirements for international travellers entering the United States of America at the present time.

Currency exchange

18. Currency exchanges can be made at the Washington Dulles International Airport and at banks in Washington, D.C. Normal banking hours are Monday to Friday 0900 to 1600 hrs. The currency unit in the United States of America is the US dollar (\$).

19. Banking and currency exchange facilities will be available at the Conference Center.

Climate

20. The following climate information for Washington in February is based on figures kindly provided by the National Weather Service of the United States.

The weather in Washington, D.C. during the first half of February can be very variable. It is usually cool, and at night cold: on average the temperature of the air reaches +7 degrees Centigrade in the afternoon and falls to -2 degrees Centigrade by early morning. However, as extremes, air temperatures up to +24 degrees Centigrade and down to -27 degrees Centigrade have been recorded.

The greatest recorded amount of precipitation in one day during the first half of February is 58 mm (in 1896) and falls of 49 mm and 35 mm in a day were recorded in 1983 and 1985 respectively. For February as a whole, the wettest month on record had falls totalling 174 mm and the driest only 11 mm.

The heaviest snowfall in Washington, D.C. on a February day was recorded on 11 February 1983: 45 cm.

Interpretation

21. Two meeting rooms will be equipped for simultaneous interpretation. Other meeting rooms without interpretation facilities will also be available. Detailed arrangements concerning the allocation of the rooms will be announced at the session.

Working languages and languages of documents

22. Simultaneous interpretation into Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish will be provided at committee meetings, on the understanding that not more than two working committees will meet at the same time. In this connection, it is to be noted that only two teams of interpreters will be available to serve 4 meetings a day.

23. Relevant documentation will be provided to delegations by the time of the session.

24. The documents for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change will be issued in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

ANNEX I

First Negotiating Session on
A Framework convention on Climate Change

PRE REGISTRATION FOR THE MEETING

1. My name is (Family name)
..... (other names)
2. I shall represent
country/organization
as Head of Delegation/Alternate/Advisor/Observer
(Please circle one)
3. My official capacity and address are:
4. My office telephone number is:
5. My office telex number is:
6. My office fax number is:

Date Signed

When completed please send this form to:

Office of the Director General for Development
and International Economic Co-operation
Room S-3727
United Nations Headquarters
UN Plaza
New York
N.Y. 10017
USA

for (212) 963-3842

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE - FIRST SESSION

WASHINGTON, DC, USA
FEBRUARY 4-14, 1991

HOTEL RESERVATION REQUEST FORM
(Please type or print clearly)

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Business Address _____

City _____ State/Zip Code or Country _____

Telephone Number (Country Code ____) (City Code ____) _____

Fax Number (____) _____ Telex Number (____) _____

Please reserve me a room at the Westfields International Conference Center at a rate of \$130.00 per night. This cost includes room and full board. The Conference Center has 310 rooms available. these rooms are on a first come, first serve basis. Priority will be given to national delegations through January 11, 1991. When the Westfield Conference Center is filled, reservations will be made at a nearby corresponding hotel, shuttle service will be provided between the hotel and Westfields.

I expect to arrive on _____ (day/month) and
to depart on _____ (day/month).

Method of Payment: ____Cash ____Credit Card ____Other

Type of Credit Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name as it appears
on card: _____

Identify Any Dietary Restrictions _____

Identify Any Handicap Requirements _____

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18 January 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE
CHANGE

First session

Washington, D.C., 4-14 February 1991

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of the Bureau.
3. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Rules of procedure (A/AC.237/2);
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
4. Preparation of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related instruments as might be agreed upon.
5. Adoption of the report.

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First Session
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ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

In resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly decided to establish a single intergovernmental negotiating process under the auspices of the General Assembly, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, for the preparation by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of an effective framework convention on climate change. The Assembly further decided that the first negotiating session should be held in Washington, D.C., in February 1991 and authorized the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the assistance of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, to convene the first session.

The first session will convene at the Westfields International Conference Center on Monday, 4 February 1991, at 10 a.m.

1. Opening of the session

Following an opening statement of the Secretary-General, a representative of the host country will address the participants. Statements by the Executive Heads of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) will be delivered.

2. Election of the Bureau

In paragraph 11 of resolution 45/212, the General Assembly recommended that a Bureau consisting of a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur should be elected, each of the five regional groups being represented by one member.

(a) Chairman

The Secretary-General or his representative will invite nominations from the floor.

(b) Three Vice-Chairmen

The Chairman will invite nominations from the floor.

(c) Rapporteur

The Chairman will invite nominations from the floor.

3. Organizational matters

(a) Rules of procedure

In paragraph 23 of resolution 45/212, the General Assembly requested the head of the Ad Hoc Secretariat for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change to prepare draft rules of procedure for consideration by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its first session.

A note on the draft rules of procedure is available in document A/AC.237/2.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda has been circulated in document A/AC.237/1.

(c) Organization of work

(i) Participation

In paragraph 2 of resolution 45/212, the General Assembly decided that "the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee should be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly".

In paragraph 19 of resolution 45/212, the General Assembly invited "relevant non-governmental organizations to make contributions to the negotiating process, as appropriate, on the understanding that these organizations shall not have any negotiating role during the process, and taking into account decision 1/1 concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its first session".¹

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No.46 (A/45/46), annex I.

(ii) Schedule of meetings

The Committee will have before it document A/AC.237/3 outlining the tentative schedule of meetings.

It is proposed that plenary meetings of the Committee start at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. promptly.

(iii) General debate

It is proposed that the general debate on item 4 of the provisional agenda begin on Tuesday, 5 February, in the morning, and end on Thursday, 7 February, in the morning. Inscription for the list of speakers in the general debate will be opened on Monday, 28 January 1991, at 10 a.m., at United Nations Headquarters and is expected to be closed on Tuesday, 5 February, at 6 p.m., at the Center.

Statements in the general debate should preferably not exceed eight minutes each. Delegations wishing to have their statements distributed should provide a sufficient number of copies (300).

(iv) Working groups

The Committee may wish to establish working groups to assist it in its work. In that case, the Committee may also decide upon the composition of the bureaux of the working groups and elect their chairmen.

The Committee's attention is drawn to recommendation 15 of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Government Representatives to prepare for negotiations on a framework convention on climate change, which met at Geneva from 24 to 26 September 1990, which states that "if there are sub-groups to the negotiating body, not more than two meetings of the main body or sub-groups should be in session simultaneously." ²

4. Preparation of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related instruments as might be agreed upon

In paragraph 1 of resolution 45/212, the General Assembly decided "to establish a single intergovernmental negotiating process under the auspices of the General Assembly, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, for the preparation by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of an effective framework convention

on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related instruments as might be agreed upon, taking into account proposals that may be submitted by States participating in the negotiating process, the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the results achieved at international meetings on the subject, including the Second World Climate Conference".

General statements would be most appropriately given in the general debate under this item and might usefully focus on issues raised in the IPCC First Assessment Report.

Following the general debate the Committee may consider establishing a basic negotiating text. The Committee would undertake, on the basis of such a text, the preparation of a framework convention. The Committee may wish to establish, at an appropriate time, a legal drafting group to assist in that process.

The Committee will have available the documentation listed in document A/AC.237/4.

5. Adoption of the report

Delegations may wish to include in the report the date and place of the next session as well as proposals for its agenda.

In that connection, the attention of the Committee is drawn to paragraph 4 of resolution 45/212 in which the General Assembly decided that, "subject to review of the timetable at the end of each negotiating session and taking into account the schedule of other intergovernmental meetings on environment and development matters, in particular the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, further meetings should be held at Geneva and at Nairobi, in May/June, September and November/December 1991 and, as appropriate, between January and June 1992". The Assembly also decided, in paragraph 6 of the resolution, that "the maximum duration of each of the negotiating sessions should be two weeks".

In paragraph 20 of resolution 45/212, the General Assembly further decided that "the negotiating process shall be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities and through voluntary contributions to a trust fund established specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations and administered by the head of the ad hoc secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General of the United Nations".

The report may also take into account paragraph 7 of resolution 45/212 by which the General Assembly considered that "the negotiations for the preparation of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related legal instruments as might be agreed upon, should be completed prior to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992 and opened for signature during the Conference".

In paragraph 16 of resolution 45/212, the General Assembly requested "the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, through the ad hoc secretariat and taking into account the relevance of the negotiations to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to keep the Preparatory Committee for the Conference and the Secretary-General of the Conference, as well as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, regularly informed in a timely manner, through regular progress reports, of the progress of the negotiations".

the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, on the potential global problem of sea-level rise, and taking note, in this connection, of decision 15/36 of 25 May 1989 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on global climate change.⁴⁷

Noting also the concern expressed in the Final Communiqué of the Twentieth South Pacific Forum, held at Tarawa, Kiribati, on 10 and 11 July 1989, at the possible effects on island countries of rising sea levels resulting from global warming,⁴⁸

Noting further the support expressed in the Langkawi Declaration on Environment, adopted by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on 21 October 1989, for low-lying and island countries in their efforts to protect themselves and their vulnerable natural marine ecosystems from the effects of sea-level rise,⁴⁹

Taking note of the Malé Declaration on Global Warming and Sea Level Rise, adopted by the Small States Conference on Sea Level Rise, held at Malé, Maldives, from 14 to 18 November 1989,⁵⁰ in which the participants declared their intent to work, collaborate and seek international co-operation to protect the low-lying small coastal and island States of the world from the dangers posed by climate change, global warming and sea-level rise,

Expressing concern that sea-level rise resulting from global climate change could lead, *inter alia*, to abnormally high tides, which could intensify flooding and the erosion of coastal areas and damage infrastructure on islands and in low-lying coastal areas,

1. Welcomes the growing attention being given worldwide to the potentially serious effects on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas, of sea-level rise resulting from climate change;

2. Urges the international community to provide effective and timely support to countries affected by sea-level rise, particularly developing countries, in their efforts to develop and implement strategies to protect themselves and their vulnerable natural marine ecosystems from the particular threats of sea-level rise caused by climate change;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to invite the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and, through them, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to take account in their work of the particular situation of islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas, by undertaking further scientific studies and by seeking ways to address the problems of sea-level rise, *inter alia*, by providing expertise, as requested, in accordance with their specific mandates, for improved management of coastal zones;

4. Recommends that the vulnerability of affected countries and their marine ecosystems to sea-level rise be considered during discussions of a draft framework convention on climate as well as within the framework of the United Nations conference on environment and development to be held in 1992 and during the preparatory process for the conference;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic

and Social Council and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme.

85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989

44/207. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/53 of 6 December 1988, in which it recognized climate change as a common concern of mankind,

Taking note of decision 15/36 of 25 May 1989 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on global climate change,⁵¹

Taking note of the message of the Chairman of the Conference on Saving the Ozone Layer, held in London from 5 to 7 March 1989,⁵² the Declaration of The Hague endorsed by 24 heads of State or Government or their representatives at The Hague on 11 March 1989,⁵³ the Helsinki Declaration on the Protection of the Ozone Layer adopted on 2 May 1989,⁵⁴ the relevant parts of the Langkawi Declaration on Environment issued by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on 21 October 1989,⁵⁵ the Declaration adopted at Noordwijk, the Netherlands, by the Ministerial Conference on Atmospheric Pollution and Climate Change, held on 6 and 7 November 1989,⁵⁶ and relevant parts of the Caracas Declaration adopted at the special ministerial meeting of the Group of Seventy-seven, held at Caracas from 21 to 23 June 1989,⁵⁷

Taking note of the relevant declarations and decisions adopted at intergovernmental regional meetings during 1989, including the Amazon Declaration, adopted by the Presidents of the States parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation at Manaus, Brazil, on 6 May 1989,⁵⁸ the Declaration of Brasilia, issued at the Sixth Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Brasilia on 30 and 31 March 1989,⁵⁹ and the relevant parts of the Final Communiqué of the Twentieth South Pacific Forum, held at Tarawa, Kiribati, on 10 and 11 July 1989,⁶⁰

Noting that, in the Economic Declaration adopted in Paris on 16 July 1989, at the Summit of the seven major industrial nations, the heads of State or Government of those countries and the President of the Commission of the European Communities supported the decision of the World Meteorological Organization to establish a global reference network to detect climate change, agreed that a framework convention on climate was urgently required and recognized that specific protocols with commitments could develop within this framework,⁶¹

Taking note of the final documents of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989,⁶² which, *inter alia*, emphasized that necessary and timely action should be taken to deal with climate changes and their consequences within a global framework and, in this

⁴⁷ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/44/25)*, annex I.

⁴⁸ A/44/463, annex, para. 20.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 8 (k).

⁵⁰ A/C.2/44/7, annex.

⁵¹ See UNEP/OzL.Pro.1/5, para. 11.

⁵² A/44/340-E/1989/120, annex.

⁵³ UNEP/OzL.Pro.1/5, appendix I.

⁵⁴ A/44/673, annex.

⁵⁵ A/C.2/44/5, annex.

⁵⁶ A/44/361, annex.

⁵⁷ A/44/275-E/1989/79, annex.

⁵⁸ A/44/683, annex.

⁵⁹ A/44/463, annex.

⁶⁰ See A/C.2/44/11, annex, paras. 40-51.

⁶¹ A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

context, called for the preparation and adoption of a framework convention on climate on an urgent basis in conformity with General Assembly resolution 43/53,

Recognizing the need for additional research and scientific studies into all sources, causes and effects of climate change,

Noting the fact that the largest part of the current emission of pollutants into the environment originates in developed countries, and recognizing therefore that those countries have the main responsibility for combating such pollution,

Recognizing the need for international collaboration with a view to adopting effective measures on the question of climate change, within a global framework and taking into account the particular needs and development priorities of developing countries,

Concerned that the participation of the developing countries in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change remains limited, and stressing the need for the Intergovernmental Panel, in view of its intergovernmental nature, to do all that it can to ensure adequate participation and governmental involvement in its activities in accordance with United Nations practice,

1. *Emphasizes* the need to address with urgency the question of climate change as reflected in the conclusions of various important international meetings;

2. *Recommends* that Governments, with due consideration for the need for increased scientific knowledge of the sources, causes and impact of climate change and of global, regional and local climates, continue and, wherever possible, increase their activities in support of the World Climate Programme and the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, including the monitoring of atmospheric composition and climate conditions, and also recommends that the international community support efforts by developing countries to participate in these scientific activities;

3. *Urges* Governments, in keeping with their national policies, priorities and regulations, and intergovernmental organizations to collaborate in making every possible effort to limit, reduce and prevent activities that could adversely affect climate, and calls upon non-governmental organizations, industry and other productive sectors to play their due role;

4. *Reaffirms* that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources in accordance with their environmental policies, and also reaffirms their responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to play their due role in preserving and protecting the global and regional environment in accordance with their capacities and specific responsibilities;

5. *Reaffirms* that, owing to its universal character, the United Nations system, through the General Assembly, is the appropriate forum for concerted political action on global environmental problems;

6. *Welcomes* the joint efforts of the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme in providing support to the urgent work being undertaken by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and its three working groups established to assess scientific information on, and the social and economic im-

pact of, climate change and to formulate response strategies;

7. *Invites* all Governments, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support fully and participate actively in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel;

8. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Trust Fund and the contributions made to it;

9. *Urges* the Intergovernmental Panel to take the necessary steps to ensure the participation of developing countries in scientific and policy aspects of its work, and calls upon the international community, in particular the developed countries, to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund, with a view to financing the participation of experts designated by Governments of developing countries in all the meetings of the Intergovernmental Panel, including its working groups and subgroups;

10. *Supports* the request made by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in its decision 15/36, that the Executive Director of the Programme, in co-operation with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, begin preparations for negotiations on a framework convention on climate, taking into account the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as well as the results achieved at international meetings on the subject, including the Second World Climate Conference, and recommends that such negotiations begin as soon as possible after the adoption of the interim report of the Intergovernmental Panel and that the General Assembly, at an early date during its forty-fifth session, take a decision recommending ways and means and modalities for pursuing these negotiations further, taking into account the work of the preparatory committee for the United Nations conference on environment and development to be held in 1992;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate for the information of delegations the reports of the third and fourth plenary meetings of the Intergovernmental Panel, as well as its interim report, as official documents of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

12. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions to collaborate in efforts to prepare, as a matter of urgency, a framework convention on climate and associated protocols containing concrete commitments in the light of priorities that may be authoritatively identified on the basis of sound scientific knowledge, and taking into account the specific development needs of developing countries;

13. *Recommends* that Governments and competent intergovernmental organizations consider, while awaiting the outcome of the negotiations, the range of possible options for averting the potentially damaging impact of climate change, for removing the causes of the phenomenon and for developing programmes for implementing those options which respond more appropriately to national needs as outlined in paragraphs 11 (a) to (f) of decision 15/36 of the Governing Council;

14. *Encourages* Governments and relevant international organizations to further the development of international funding mechanisms, taking account of proposals for a climate fund and other innovative ideas and bearing in mind the need to provide new and additional financial resources to support developing countries in identifying, analysing, monitoring, preventing and managing environmental problems, primarily at their source, in accordance with national development goals, objectives and plans, so

as to ensure that development priorities are not adversely affected;

15. *Decides* that the concept of assured access for developing countries to environmentally sound technologies and assured transfer of those technologies to developing countries on favourable terms and the relation of that concept to intellectual property rights should be explored in the context of the elaboration of a framework convention on climate, with a view to developing effective responses to the needs of developing countries in this area;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of ongoing intergovernmental and other efforts in this field, to continue his support for the formulation and implementation of strategies to respond to climate change;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, as well as intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and scientific institutions with expertise in matters concerning climate;

18. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Decides* to include this question in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session, without prejudice to the application of the principle of biennialization.

85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989

44/208. United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities

The General Assembly,

Noting the importance of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities,

Bearing in mind the need for the Conference, the principal occasion for Member States and others to announce their contributions to the operational activities of the United Nations system, to continue to be managed as effectively as possible,

Requests the Secretary-General to examine the modalities of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities and to make recommendations on future administrative arrangements for the Conference to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990, for transmission to the 1990 Conference and to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, as appropriate, including the following arrangements:

(a) Sessional arrangements for the Conference, including the possibility of shortening it, and its timing, bearing in mind the budgetary cycles of Governments;

(b) Procedures for making pledges, including the greater use of written pledges, as appropriate;

(c) Formalization of and rationalization of procedures for the Final Act of the Conference.

85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989

44/209. Fortieth anniversary of multilateral technical co-operation for development within the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Noting that 1990 will be the fortieth anniversary of multilateral technical co-operation for development within the United Nations system, which commenced with the establishment of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance⁶² and the Special Fund,⁶³ the two programmes later consolidated into the United Nations Development Programme,⁶⁴

Taking note of decisions 89/68 of 30 June 1989 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme²⁷ and 1989/187 of 28 July 1989 of the Economic and Social Council,

1. *Decides* to observe, during its forty-fifth session, the fortieth anniversary of multilateral technical co-operation for development within the United Nations system in a manner befitting the role and achievements of such co-operation, and also decides that Wednesday, 24 October 1990, United Nations Day, shall be the day for the commemoration of this anniversary;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to make the necessary preparations for the celebration of the anniversary, and also invites all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system engaged in technical co-operation to contribute to the preparations.

85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989

44/210. Future needs in the field of population, including the development of resource requirements for international population assistance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action,⁶⁵ which were affirmed and expanded at the International Conference on Population,⁶⁶

Recalling decision 87/30 of 18 June 1987 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, in which the Governing Council welcomed the intention of the United Nations Population Fund to conduct a wide-ranging review and assessment of accumulated population experience in key areas within its mandate,⁶⁷

Recalling also its resolution 43/199 of 20 December 1988, in which it welcomed the review and assessment being conducted by the United Nations Population Fund of its experience in the field of population and requested that an appropriate summary of the main findings, conclusions and recommendations be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session,

⁶² Resolution 304 (IV).

⁶³ Resolution 1240 (XIII).

⁶⁴ Resolution 2029 (XX).

⁶⁵ See *Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

⁶⁶ See *Report of the International Conference on Population, Mexico City, 6-14 August 1984* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.8 and corrigenda).

⁶⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 12 and corrigendum (E/1987/25 and Corr.1), annex I.*

addressing the issues of sound management and enhancement of the resource base, furthering the promotion, accelerated development and transfer of environmentally sound technology, minimizing environmental dangers and merging environment and economics in decision-making in all countries, as well as taking cognizance of the interrelationship between people, resources, environment and development;

11. *Stresses* that sustainable and environmentally sound development requires changes in the unsustainable pattern of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries, and the development of environmentally sound technologies, and, in this context, stresses also the need to examine, with a view to making recommendations on effective modalities for favourable access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies, in particular to the developing countries, including on concessional and preferential terms, and on modalities for supporting all countries in their efforts to create and develop their endogenous technological capacities in the field of scientific research and development, as well as in the acquisition of relevant information, and, in this context, stresses further the need to explore the concept of assured access for developing countries to environmentally sound technologies, in its relation to proprietary rights, with a view to developing effective responses to the needs of developing countries in this area;

12. *Endorses* the views and suggestions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fifteenth session on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187, contained in the report of the Secretary-General,¹²¹ regards Governing Council decision 15/2 as a positive step towards a better understanding of the concept of sustainable and environmentally sound development and of the implications of the implementation of the concept for all countries, and invites Governments and the governing bodies of the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take them into account in their further efforts towards promoting and achieving sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries;

13. *Reaffirms* the need to provide new and additional financial resources to support developing countries in measures, *inter alia*, to identify, analyse, monitor, prevent and manage environmental problems, primarily at their sources, in accordance with their national development goals, objectives and plans, so as to ensure that their development priorities are not adversely affected;

14. *Stresses* the need for new and additional financial resources for measures aimed at solving major environmental problems of global concern, and especially to support those countries, in particular developing countries, for which the implementation of such measures would entail a special or abnormal burden, due, in particular, to their lack of financial resources, expertise and/or technical capacity;

15. *Reaffirms* the need for developed countries and relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to strengthen technical co-operation with the developing countries to assist them to develop and strengthen their endogenous capacity for identifying, analysing, monitoring, preventing and managing environmental problems in accordance with their national development plans, priorities and objectives;

16. *Reaffirms also* that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their environmental policies, and reaffirms further their responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to play their due role in preserving and protecting the global and regional environment in accordance with their capacities and specific responsibilities;

17. *Considers* that the regional follow-up conferences should contribute to a better understanding and a more concrete definition of the concept of sustainable and environmentally sound development and of the implications of the implementation of the concept, and should make important substantive contributions to the United Nations conference on environment and development in 1992;

18. *Invites* the preparatory committee for the conference to take duly into account the recommendations contained in the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development in the preparatory process for the conference, as well as recommendations for action by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and the views and suggestions expressed by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and other organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system on those matters;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare for submission to the preparatory committee for the conference, and to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic and Social Council, a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, for submission to the conference and to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic and Social Council, a new consolidated report on further substantive follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 by Governments and organizations of the United Nations system.

85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989

44/228. United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/196 of 20 December 1988 on a United Nations conference on environment and development,

Taking note of decision 15/3 of 25 May 1989 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme⁴⁷ on a United Nations conference on environment and development,

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/87 of 26 July 1989 on the convening of a United Nations conference on environment and development,

Taking note further of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/101 of 27 July 1989 on strengthening international co-operation on environment through the provision of additional financial resources to developing countries,

¹²¹ *Ibid.*, sects. II and III.

Recalling its resolutions 42/186 of 11 December 1987 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and 42/187 of 11 December 1987 on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development,¹¹⁹

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on environment and development,¹²²

Mindful of the views expressed by Governments in the debate at its forty-fourth session on the convening of a United Nations conference on environment and development,

Recalling the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,¹²³

Deeply concerned by the continuing deterioration of the state of the environment and the serious degradation of the global life-support systems, as well as by trends that, if allowed to continue, could disrupt the global ecological balance, jeopardize the life-sustaining qualities of the Earth and lead to an ecological catastrophe, and recognizing that decisive, urgent and global action is vital to protecting the ecological balance of the Earth,

Recognizing the importance for all countries of the protection and enhancement of the environment,

Recognizing also that the global character of environmental problems, including climate change, depletion of the ozone layer, transboundary air and water pollution, the contamination of the oceans and seas and degradation of land resources, including drought and desertification, necessitates action at all levels, including the global, regional and national levels, and the commitment and participation of all countries,

Gravely concerned that the major cause of the continuing deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries,

Stressing that poverty and environmental degradation are closely interrelated and that environmental protection in developing countries must, in this context, be viewed as an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it,

Recognizing that measures to be undertaken at the international level for the protection and enhancement of the environment must take fully into account the current imbalances in global patterns of production and consumption,

Affirming that the responsibility for containing, reducing and eliminating global environmental damage must be borne by the countries causing such damage, must be in relation to the damage caused and must be in accordance with their respective capabilities and responsibilities,

Recognizing the environmental impact of material remnants of war and the need for further international co-operation for their removal,

Stressing the importance for all countries of taking effective measures for the protection, restoration and enhancement of the environment in accordance, *inter alia*, with their respective capabilities, while at the same time acknowledging the efforts being made in all countries in this regard, including international co-operation between developed and developing countries,

Stressing the need for effective international co-operation in the areas of research, development and application of environmentally sound technologies,

Conscious of the crucial role of science and technology in the field of environmental protection and of the need of developing countries, in particular, for favourable access to environmentally sound technologies, processes, equipment and related research and expertise through international co-operation designed to further global efforts for environmental protection, including the use of innovative and effective means,

Recognizing that new and additional financial resources will have to be channelled to developing countries in order to ensure their full participation in global efforts for environmental protection,

I

1. Decides to convene the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which shall be of two weeks' duration and shall have the highest possible level of participation, to coincide with World Environment Day, on 5 June 1992;

2. Accepts with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Brazil to act as host to the Conference;

3. Affirms that the Conference should elaborate strategies and measures to halt and reverse the effects of environmental degradation in the context of increased national and international efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries;

4. Affirms also that the protection and enhancement of the environment are major issues that affect the well-being of peoples and economic development throughout the world;

5. Affirms further that the promotion of economic growth in developing countries is essential to address problems of environmental degradation;

6. Affirms the importance of a supportive international economic climate conducive to sustained economic growth and development in all countries for the protection and sound management of the environment;

7. Reaffirms that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the applicable principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their environmental policies, and also reaffirms their responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to play their due role in preserving and protecting the global and regional environment in accordance with their capacities and specific responsibilities;

8. Affirms the responsibility of States, in accordance with national legislation and applicable international law, for the damage to the environment and natural resources caused by activities within their jurisdiction or control through transboundary interference;

9. Notes that the largest part of the current emission of pollutants into the environment, including toxic and hazardous wastes, originates in developed countries, and therefore recognizes that those countries have the main responsibility for combating such pollution;

10. Stresses that large industrial enterprises, including transnational corporations, are frequently the repositories of scarce technical skills for the preservation and enhancement of the environment, that they conduct activities in sectors that have an impact on the environment and, to that extent, have specific responsibilities and that, in this

¹¹⁹ A/44/256-E/1989/60 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2.

¹²³ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.11.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. I.

context, efforts need to be encouraged and mobilized to protect and enhance the environment in all countries;

11. *Reaffirms* that the serious external indebtedness of developing countries and other countries with serious debt-servicing problems has to be addressed in an efficient and urgent manner in order to enable those countries to contribute fully and in accordance with their capacities and responsibilities to global efforts to protect and enhance the environment;

12. *Affirms* that, in the light of the foregoing, the following environmental issues, which are not listed in any particular order of priority, are among those of major concern in maintaining the quality of the Earth's environment and especially in achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development in all countries:

(a) Protection of the atmosphere by combating climate change, depletion of the ozone layer and transboundary air pollution;

(b) Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources;

(c) Protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources;

(d) Protection and management of land resources by, *inter alia*, combating deforestation, desertification and drought;

(e) Conservation of biological diversity;

(f) Environmentally sound management of biotechnology;

(g) Environmentally sound management of wastes, particularly hazardous wastes, and of toxic chemicals, as well as prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes;

(h) Improvement of the living and working environment of the poor in urban slums and rural areas, through the eradication of poverty by, *inter alia*, implementing integrated rural and urban development programmes, as well as taking other appropriate measures at all levels necessary to stem the degradation of the environment;

(i) Protection of human health conditions and improvement of the quality of life;

13. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen international co-operation for the management of the environment to ensure its protection and enhancement and the need to explore the issue of benefits derived from activities, including research and development, related to the protection and development of biological diversity;

14. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen international co-operation, particularly between developed and developing countries, in research and development and the utilization of environmentally sound technologies;

15. *Decides* that the Conference, in addressing environmental issues in the developmental context, should have the following objectives:

(a) To examine the state of the environment and changes that have occurred since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in 1972, and since the adoption of such international agreements as the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, adopted on 22 March 1985, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, adopted on 16 September 1987, taking into account the actions taken by all countries and intergovernmental organizations to protect and enhance the environment;

(b) To identify strategies to be co-ordinated regionally and globally, as appropriate, for concerted action to deal with major environmental issues in the socio-economic development processes of all countries within a particular time-frame;

(c) To recommend measures to be taken at the national and international levels to protect and enhance the environment, taking into account the specific needs of developing countries, through the development and implementation of policies for sustainable and environmentally sound development with special emphasis on incorporating environmental concerns in the economic and social development process and of various sectoral policies and through, *inter alia*, preventive action at the sources of environmental degradation, clearly identifying the sources of such degradation and appropriate remedial measures, in all countries;

(d) To promote the further development of international environmental law, taking into account the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,¹²³ as well as the special needs and concerns of the developing countries, and to examine in this context the feasibility of elaborating general rights and obligations of States, as appropriate, in the field of the environment, and taking into account relevant existing international legal instruments;

(e) To examine ways and means further to improve co-operation in the field of protection and enhancement of the environment between neighbouring countries, with a view to eliminating adverse environmental effects;

(f) To examine strategies for national and international action with a view to arriving at specific agreements and commitments by Governments for defined activities to deal with major environmental issues in order to restore the global ecological balance and to prevent further deterioration of the environment, taking into account the fact that the largest part of the current emission of pollutants into the environment, including toxic and hazardous wastes, originates in developed countries, and therefore recognizing that those countries have the main responsibility for combating such pollution;

(g) To accord high priority to drought and desertification control and to consider all means necessary, including financial, scientific and technological resources, to halt and reverse the process of desertification with a view to preserving the ecological balance of the planet;

(h) To examine the relationship between environmental degradation and the international economic environment, with a view to ensuring a more integrated approach to problems of environment and development in relevant international forums without introducing new forms of conditionality;

(i) To examine strategies for national and international action with a view to arriving at specific agreements and commitments by Governments and by intergovernmental organizations for defined activities to promote a supportive international economic climate conducive to sustained and environmentally sound development in all countries, with a view to combating poverty and improving the quality of life, and bearing in mind that the incorporation of environmental concerns and considerations in development planning and policies should not be used to introduce new forms of conditionality in aid or in development financing and should not serve as a pretext for creating unjustified barriers to trade;

(j) To identify ways and means of providing new and additional financial resources, particularly to developing countries, for environmentally sound development pro-

grammes and projects in accordance with national development objectives, priorities and plans and to consider ways of effectively monitoring the provision of such new and additional financial resources, particularly to developing countries, so as to enable the international community to take further appropriate action on the basis of accurate and reliable data;

(k) To identify ways and means of providing additional financial resources for measures directed towards solving major environmental problems of global concern and especially of supporting those countries, in particular developing countries, for which the implementation of such measures would entail a special or abnormal burden, owing, in particular, to their lack of financial resources, expertise or technical capacity;

(l) To consider various funding mechanisms, including voluntary ones, and to examine the possibility of a special international fund and other innovative approaches, with a view to ensuring, on a favourable basis, the most effective and expeditious transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries;

(m) To examine, with a view to making recommendations, effective modalities for favourable access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies, in particular to the developing countries, including on concessional and preferential terms, and modalities for supporting all countries in their efforts to create and develop their endogenous technological capacities in the field of scientific research and development, as well as in the acquisition of relevant information, and, in this context, to explore the concept of assured access for developing countries to environmentally sound technologies, in its relation to proprietary rights, with a view to developing effective responses to the needs of developing countries in this area;

(n) To promote the development of human resources, particularly in developing countries, for the protection and enhancement of the environment;

(o) To recommend measures to Governments and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, with a view to strengthening technical co-operation with the developing countries to enable them to develop and strengthen their capacity for identifying, analysing, monitoring, managing or preventing environmental problems in accordance with their national development plans, objectives and priorities;

(p) To promote open and timely exchange of information on national environmental policies, situations and accidents;

(q) To review and examine the role of the United Nations system in dealing with the environment and possible ways of improving it;

(r) To promote the development or strengthening of appropriate institutions at the national, regional and global levels to deal with environmental matters in the context of the socio-economic development processes of all countries;

(s) To promote environmental education, especially of the younger generation, as well as other measures to increase awareness of the value of the environment;

(t) To promote international co-operation within the United Nations system in monitoring, assessing and anticipating environmental threats and in rendering assistance in cases of environmental emergency;

(u) To specify the respective responsibilities of and support to be given by the organs, organizations and pro-

grammes of the United Nations system for the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

(v) To quantify the financial requirements for the successful implementation of Conference decisions and recommendations and to identify possible sources, including innovative ones, of additional resources;

(w) To assess the capacity of the United Nations system to assist in the prevention and settlement of disputes in the environmental sphere and to recommend measures in this field, while respecting existing bilateral and international agreements that provide for the settlement of such disputes;

II

1. *Decides* to establish the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly;

2. *Decides* that the Preparatory Committee shall hold an organizational session of two weeks' duration in March 1990 and a final session, both at United Nations Headquarters, as well as three additional substantive sessions, the first at Nairobi and the following two at Geneva, the timing and duration of which shall be determined by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session;

3. *Decides* that the Preparatory Committee, at its organizational session, shall elect, with due regard to equitable geographic representation, a chairman and other members of its Bureau, comprising a substantial number of vice-chairmen and a rapporteur;

4. *Decides* that the host country of the Conference, Brazil, shall be *ex officio* a member of the Bureau;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, following the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee, to establish an appropriate *ad hoc* secretariat at the United Nations Office at Geneva, with a unit in New York and another unit in Nairobi, taking into account the decisions to be made by the Preparatory Committee regarding the preparatory process for the Conference and based on the principle of equitable geographic distribution;

6. *Decides* that the *ad hoc* secretariat will be headed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, who will be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare a report for the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee containing recommendations on an adequate preparatory process, taking into account the provisions of the present resolution and the views expressed by Governments in the debate at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly;

8. *Decides* that the Preparatory Committee shall:

(a) Draft the provisional agenda of the Conference, in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution;

(b) Adopt guidelines to enable States to take a harmonized approach in their preparations and reporting;

(c) Prepare draft decisions for the Conference and submit them to the Conference for consideration and adoption;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, as the main organ dealing with environmental issues, and other organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant inter-governmental organizations, to contribute fully to the

preparations for the Conference on the basis of guidelines and requirements to be established by the Preparatory Committee;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the co-ordination of contributions from the United Nations system through the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

11. *Invites* all States to take an active part in the preparations for the Conference, to prepare national reports, as appropriate, to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee in a timely manner, and to promote international co-operation and broad-based national preparatory processes involving the scientific community, industry, trade unions and concerned non-governmental organizations;

12. *Requests* relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to contribute to the Conference, as appropriate;

13. *Stresses* the importance of holding regional conferences on environment and development with the full co-operation of the regional commissions, and recommends that the results of such regional conferences be introduced into the preparatory process for the Conference, bearing in mind that regional conferences should make important substantive contributions to the Conference;

14. *Decides* that the preparatory process and the Conference itself should be funded through the regular budget of the United Nations without adversely affecting other ongoing activities and without prejudice to the provision of sources of extrabudgetary resources;

15. *Decides* to establish a voluntary fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, to participate fully and effectively in the Conference and in its preparatory process, and invites Governments to contribute to the fund;

16. *Requests* the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions on the progress of work of the Committee;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions an item entitled "United Nations Conference on Environment and Development".

85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989

44/229. International co-operation in the field of the environment

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned at the increasing degradation of the environment, which, if allowed to continue, could endanger not only economic and social development but the very basis of life itself,

Noting the increased political interest in solving environmental problems and intensified international co-operation to that effect,

Welcoming the fact that there have been encouraging developments in some important areas of environmental co-operation,

Reaffirming that there is a direct interrelationship between environment and development, and recognizing that a favourable international economic climate conducive to sustained economic growth and development, particularly in developing countries, is of major importance for sound management of the environment,

Reaffirming also the importance of integrating environmental concerns and considerations into policies and programmes in all countries without introducing a new form of conditionality in aid or development financing or constituting a pretext for unjustified barriers to trade,

Noting the fact that the largest part of the current emission of pollutants into the environment, including toxic and hazardous wastes, originates in developed countries, and recognizing that those countries therefore have the main responsibility for combating such pollution,

Recognizing that serious environmental problems are arising for all countries and that those problems must be progressively addressed through preventive measures at their sources by national efforts and international co-operation,

Reaffirming the need for developed countries and appropriate international organs and organizations to strengthen technical co-operation with developing countries, increase the transfer of technology and provide additional resources to enhance the capacity of developing countries to solve their environmental problems,

Recognizing that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in 1992, is a unique opportunity for all nations to address environmental and development issues in an integrated manner and to mobilize their political will to solve environmental problems through international co-operation,

Recalling decision 14/10 of 18 June 1987 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme¹²⁴ on the environmental impact of *apartheid* on black agriculture in South Africa,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its fifteenth session,¹²⁵

1. *Endorses* the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, welcomes the report of the Governing Council on the work of its fifteenth session and takes note with appreciation of the decisions therein, as adopted, in the light of the present resolution;

2. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Programme as defined in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, and supports further strengthening of the role of the Programme as the central catalysing, co-ordinating and stimulating body in the field of the environment within the United Nations system;

3. *Welcomes* the measures adopted by the Governing Council, in its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989,⁴⁷ to improve its own effectiveness and efficiency;

4. *Reaffirms* that, owing to its universal character, the United Nations system, through the General Assembly, is the appropriate forum for concerted political action on global environmental problems;

5. *Considers*, in this regard, that the structure of the United Nations and its responsiveness in dealing with major environmental issues should be reviewed in order to strengthen its capacity to deal with these matters in an integrated, coherent and effective way, and requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on this issue, taking into account the views expressed by Governments, to be considered in the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

6. *Takes note* of the areas of concentration for the international community set out by the Governing Council

¹²⁴ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 and corrigendum (A/42/25 and Corr.1), annex I.

¹²⁵ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/44/25).



General Assembly

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING
COMMITTEE FOR A FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
First session
Washington, D.C., 4-14 February 1991
Agenda item 3

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Use of the special voluntary fund to support the participation
of developing countries in the work of the Intergovernmental
Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on
Climate Change

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. Welcomes the expressed intention of several Governments and a regional integration organization to contribute to the special voluntary fund established by the General Assembly in paragraph 10 of its resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990;
2. Urges Governments that are in a position to do so but have not yet done so to contribute to the special voluntary fund according to their possibilities at an early date and expresses the hope that those which have already done so will make further contributions;
3. Urges relevant bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, to contribute generously to the special voluntary fund and invites the Chairman of the Committee to convey this appeal to the executive heads of those bodies, as well as to those of other interested organizations;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Committee, in determining the eligibility of countries for access to the fund, to bear in mind the following considerations in addition to the criteria set out in paragraph 10 of resolution 45/212:

(a) The vulnerability of countries to the rise in sea-level, drought and desertification, and severe weather disturbances;

(b) The importance of financing the attendance of experts, including scientists, as members of delegations from developing countries;

(c) Adequate regional representation of developing countries;

(d) The important role of regional organizations in providing suitable technical support to the effective participation of developing countries in the negotiating process;

5. Invites donors and recipients of financial assistance to keep the Executive Secretary informed of their relevant funding arrangements, so that the special voluntary fund may be used to the greatest effect;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to facilitate the full and effective participation in the work of the Committee of developing countries, and indeed of all countries entitled to participate, by ensuring the timely and well-directed distribution of notifications, documentation and other information well in advance of Committee sessions, and by making adequate provision for this purpose within the capacities of the secretariat.

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AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF GOVERNMENT
REPRESENTATIVES TO PREPARE FOR
NEGOTIATIONS ON A FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

UNEP/WMO
Prep./FCCC/L.1/REPORT

Geneva, 24-26 September 1990

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Government Representatives to prepare for negotiations on a Framework Convention on Climate Change was held in Geneva, from 24-26 September 1990, at the International Conference Centre. The meeting was convened in pursuance of Resolution 8 (EC-XLII) adopted by the Executive Council of WMO at its forty-second session in June 1990 and decision SS. II/3 adopted by the special session of the Governing Council of UNEP in August 1990 both entitled "Framework Convention on Climate Change".

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the meeting

2. In his opening statement, Professor G.O.P. Obasi, Secretary-General of WMO, summarized the background to the preparation for negotiations and emphasized the sound and thorough technical basis provided by the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

He stressed WMO's role as the independent authoritative scientific voice and pledged WMO's full support in any agreed international strategy, through the World Climate Programme and through the Global Atmosphere Watch, the World Weather Watch and other related international programmes. He recognized that calls for equity raised problems in agreeing on what was equitable and that a great deal of economic and social data would need to be co-ordinated and reviewed in this particular light and interpreted with wisdom.

He emphasized the need for this short meeting to concentrate on organizational preparations for the first negotiating session in the United States in February 1991. The real issues behind the negotiations need to be identified only. Discussing and resolving them are matters for the negotiations and not this preparatory meeting.

He proposed that as the negotiations proceeded to a more formal stage it would be necessary to adhere closely to UN type rules of procedure. He also advocated an effective, inexpensive, even frugal, secretariat for negotiations and invited views on its role.

91-01945

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING
COMMITTEE FOR A FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
First session
Washington, D.C., 4-14 February 1991

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE MEETING

Note by the Secretariat

1. The present note provides a list of documents relating to the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change:

- (a) Resolution 45/212, entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind", adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 1990;
- (b) A/45/696
(2 November 1990)
and Add.1
(8 November 1990)
Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind: progress achieved in the implementation of resolution 44/207 on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind: report of the Secretary-General;
- * * *
- (c) A/AC.237/1
(18 January 1991)
Provisional agenda;
- (d) A/AC.237/1/Add.1
(18 January 1991)
Annotated provisional agenda;
- (e) A/AC.237/2
(23 January 1991)
and Corr.1
Organizational matters: rules of procedure;

- (f) A/AC.237/3 Tentative schedule of meetings.
 (28 January 1991)

2. The following documents are also at the disposal of the delegations:

- (a) First assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (including the paper on legal measures) (August 1990);
- (b) Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Government Representatives to prepare for negotiations on a framework convention on climate change on its meeting held at Geneva from 24 t 26 September 1990.

3. The following documents will be available for consultation at the meeting:

- (a) A/44/48 Report of the Preparatory Committee for the
 (20 March 1990) United Nations Conference on Environment and
 and Corr.1 and 2 Development on the work of its organizational
 session (5-16 March 1990);
- (b) A/45/25 Report of the Governing Council of the United
 (19 September 1990) Nations Environment Programme on the work of its
 second special session (1-3 August 1990);
- (c) A/45/46 Report of the Preparatory Committee for the
 (17 October 1990) United Nations Conference on Environment and
 Development on the work of its first substantive
 session (6-31 August 1990).



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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE
CHANGE

First session
Washington, D.C., 4-14 February 1991

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Note by the Secretariat

In order to facilitate preparations for the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, it may be helpful for participants to know in advance the tentative schedule of meetings.

Monday, 4 February

10 a.m.
and
3 p.m.

Opening of the session by the Secretary-General of the United Nations or his representative

Statement by a representative of the host country

Statements by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization

Election of the Bureau

Organizational matters

Tuesday, 5 February

10 a.m.
and
3 p.m.

General debate on item 4 of the provisional agenda (Preparation of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related instruments as might be agreed upon)

Wednesday, 6 February

10 a.m.
and
3 p.m.

General debate on item 4 of the provisional agenda

Thursday, 7 February

10 a.m.

General debate on item 4 of the provisional agenda

Friday, 8 February

10 a.m.
and
3 p.m.

Meetings of the subsidiary organs

Monday, 11 February

10 a.m.
and
3 p.m.

Meetings of the subsidiary organs

Tuesday, 12 February

10 a.m.
and
3 p.m.

Meetings of the subsidiary organs

Wednesday, 13 February

10 a.m.
and
3 p.m.

Consideration by the Committee of the reports of the subsidiary organs

Thursday, 14 February

10 a.m.

Adoption of the report



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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE
CHANGE

First session
Washington, D.C., 4-14 February 1991

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session.
 2. Election of the Bureau.
 3. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Rules of procedure (A/AC.237/2);
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
 4. Preparation of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related instruments as might be agreed upon.
 5. Adoption of the report.
-

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE
CHANGE

First session
Washington, D.C., 4-14 February 1991

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

In its resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly decided to establish a single intergovernmental negotiating process under the auspices of the General Assembly, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, for the preparation by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of an effective framework convention on climate change. The Assembly further decided that the first negotiating session should be held in Washington, D.C., in February 1991, and authorized the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the assistance of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, to convene the first session.

The first session will convene at the Westfields International Conference Center on Monday, 4 February 1991, at 10 a.m.

1. Opening of the session

Following an opening statement of the Secretary-General, a representative of the host country will address the participants. Statements by the Executive Heads of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) will be delivered.

2. Election of the Bureau

In paragraph 11 of its resolution 45/212, the General Assembly recommended that a Bureau consisting of a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur should be elected, each of the five regional groups being represented by one member.

(a) Chairman

The Secretary-General or his representative will invite nominations from the floor.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING
COMMITTEE FOR A FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
First session
Washington, D.C., 4-14 February 1991

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS: RULES OF PROCEDURE

Note by the Secretariat

1. By paragraph 1 of its resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly decided to establish a single intergovernmental negotiating process under the auspices of the General Assembly, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, for the preparation by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related instruments as might be agreed upon, taking into account proposals that may be submitted by States participating in the negotiating process, the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the results achieved at international meetings on the subject, including the Second World Climate Conference.
2. Rule 161 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that:

"The General Assembly may establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions. The rules relating to the procedure of committees of the General Assembly, as well as rules 45 and 60, shall apply to the procedure of any subsidiary organ unless the Assembly or the subsidiary organ decides otherwise."
3. By paragraph 23 of its resolution 45/212, the General Assembly requested the head of the ad hoc secretariat to prepare draft rules of procedure for consideration by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its first session.
4. The draft rules of procedure for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, set out in the annex to the present document, have been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of General Assembly resolution 45/212, the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and the rules of procedure adopted at recent United Nations treaty-making conferences.

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Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 81

PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

Progress achieved in the implementation of resolution 44/207 on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly in its resolution 44/207 of 22 December 1989 reaffirmed climate change as a common concern of mankind. In the preambular paragraphs it recognized the need for additional research and scientific studies into all sources, causes and effects of climate change. Accordingly, emphasis has been placed by the Assembly on strengthening existing scientific programmes to meet this need, in particular the World Climate Programme (WCP) and the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP). The guidance of the Second World Climate Conference on how these programmes can better respond to the urgent scientific challenges posed by climate change has been valuable in this regard.
2. The resolution recognized that there is a clear need for the participation of developing countries in the research and assessment programmes, while noting that developed countries were responsible for the larger part of atmospheric pollution. Accordingly, wide international participation in WCP and IGBP has been encouraged, with preferential assistance being provided to developing countries to facilitate their involvement in all relevant activities, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and its working groups and committees, and also in meetings relevant to the elaboration of a framework convention on climate.
3. The General Assembly in resolution 44/207 emphasized the need to address with urgency the question of climate change and recommended that Governments should reduce and prevent activities that could adversely affect climate. The actions of some Governments and regional economic integration organizations that have initiated measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and have agreed on targets for the stabilization of national carbon dioxide emissions are welcomed, but more must be done in this regard if climate is to be protected from adverse change.

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PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

Progress achieved in the implementation of resolution 44/207
on protection of global climate for present and future
generations of mankind

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

The final statement of the Scientific/Technical sessions of the Second World Climate Conference (annex II) and the Ministerial Declaration of the Conference (annex III) are reproduced in the present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/45/851)]

45/212. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988 and 44/207 of 22 December 1989, in which it recognized that climate change is a common concern of mankind, and urging Governments and, as appropriate, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions, to collaborate in a concerted effort with the aim of preparing, as a matter of urgency, a framework convention on climate change, and other related instruments, containing appropriate commitments for action to combat climate change and its adverse effects, taking into account the most up-to-date, sound scientific knowledge and any existing uncertainties, as well as the particular needs and development priorities of developing countries,

Recalling also its resolution 44/206 of 22 December 1989 on the possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas,

Recalling further its resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and of the Executive Council of the World Meteorological Organization,