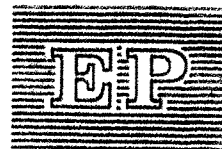




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## INTRODUCTORY REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### A. Objectives of the first session of the Governing Council

1. The first session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, established by General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), will take place in Geneva from 12 to 22 June 1973. The provisional agenda for the session, prepared by the Executive Director, together with annotations thereto, is contained in document UNEP/GC/1. 1/
2. The main functions and responsibilities of the Governing Council are those set out in the above-mentioned resolution. In addition, the General Assembly, by its resolution 2994 (XXVII), drew the attention of the Governing Council to the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and referred the Action Plan for the Human Environment to the Governing Council for appropriate action.
3. In view of the relatively short period between the establishment by the General Assembly of the new institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental co-operation and the first session of the Council, the Council may consider that it is not ready, at its first session, to take major initiatives in all the areas included in its terms of reference. In the opinion of the Executive Director, however, the following essential tasks may be undertaken by the Council at its first session:
  - (i) On the basis of the Action Plan for the Human Environment, the Governing Council may wish to decide upon the main objectives of the Environment Programme and the priorities to be followed in carrying out the Programme. In this connexion, the Council may further wish to authorize the Executive Director to undertake preliminary pre-programming activities to prepare, for consideration by the Council at its second session, programme proposals designed to achieve the objectives agreed by the Council (provisional agenda item 6; see Section C below and document UNEP/GC/5).

1/ A suggested timetable of plenary meetings is contained in document UNEP/GC/1/Add.1.

(ii) In accordance with resolution 2997 (XXVII) (Section III, paragraph 7 and Section I, paragraph 2 (g)), the Governing Council should formulate such general procedures as are necessary to govern the operations of the Environment Fund and should review and approve the programme of utilization of resources of the Fund <sup>2/</sup> (provisional agenda item 7; see Sections D and E below and documents UNEP/GC/4 and UNEP/GC/8). <sup>3/</sup>

(iii) The Governing Council is required by General Assembly resolution 3001 (XXVII) to consider a report of the Secretary-General containing a plan for and anticipated costs of the United Nations Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements, which is scheduled to be held in Canada in 1976 (provisional agenda item 9; see Section F below and document UNEP/GC/6 and Add.1).

(iv) The Governing Council may wish to give consideration to certain organizational matters, in particular the adoption of its rules of procedure (provisional agenda item 4; see document UNEP/GC/3) and arrangements for its future work, and also to take appropriate action on other matters arising from resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its 27th session (provisional agenda item 10; see Section G below).

4. In undertaking the above tasks the Council will wish to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and may also wish to take into account the report of the Environment Co-ordination Board on its first session (Geneva, 9 April 1973) (provisional agenda item 8; see Section B below and document UNEP/GC/7).

5. In the light of the above objectives, the principal activities of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in preparing for the first session of this Governing Council have been the elaboration of recommendations concerning the development of the Environment Programme, the formulation of draft General Procedures for the Environment Fund and the preparation, in co-operation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, of a report on the Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements.

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<sup>2/</sup> In the definitions relating to the draft general procedures the term "Fund Programme" is used to indicate the programme of utilization of resources of the Fund.

<sup>3/</sup> The Governing Council may also wish to note that it is the intention of the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Director, to formulate Financial Rules for the Environment Fund and to make personnel arrangements for staff paid from Fund resources and that the Secretary-General will accordingly make suitable proposals for consideration by the General Assembly at its 28th session (see document UNEP/GC/L.1).

B. Environment Co-ordination Board

6. The Environment Co-ordination Board, established in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) under the auspices and within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, held its first session at the Palais des Nations, Geneva on 9 April 1973, under the Chairmanship of the Executive Director. Most of the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies participating in the session were represented by their executive heads. The first session of the Board marked the beginning of the process of co-operation and co-ordination in the field of the environment within the new machinery established by the General Assembly and provided a sound basis for the continuation of this process, which is based upon the co-operative relationships which had played an important part in the process of the Conference on the Human Environment.

7. The Board agreed upon its broad functions and methods of work in the light of the General Assembly resolution. The Board also considered the suggested programme objectives and functional tasks which the Executive Director had prepared for submission to the Governing Council and a note on the draft general procedures governing the operations of the Environment Fund. The Board provided valuable guidance to the Executive Director on both these subjects and the programme objectives now before the Council (see Section C below) reflect the comments of the Board.

C. Action Plan for the Human Environment: Programme development and priorities

8. In working on the development of a Programme, the Executive Director has proceeded on the basis of the assumption that the Governing Council would wish, at its first session, to discuss the objectives of its Programme, priorities among them and the functional tasks necessary to accomplish the objectives. The Executive Director has, of course, borne in mind the main functions and responsibilities of the Governing Council, as set out in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) (including that of providing general policy guidance for the direction and co-ordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system), as well as the guidelines contained in that resolution concerning the use of the Environment Fund (see paragraph 17 below).

9. The Executive Director accordingly suggests that the Governing Council may wish to consider the three general objectives and fourteen particular objectives of the Environment Programme, which are set out in the following paragraphs, as well as the major functional tasks identified as being necessary to achieve the objectives. Furthermore, the Executive Director intends to make some suggestions concerning priorities in his opening statement to the Governing Council on 12 June 1973.

10. The recommended objectives and functional tasks are fully explained in document UNEP/GC/5 which is before the Council. They are based on a wide variety of factors including (in chronological order):

(a) the "major areas of concern" identified through the analysis of extensive documentation submitted during the preparatory process of the Stockholm Conference, with special emphasis on national reports and the results of regional seminars and special meetings (described in Conference documents A/CONF.48/5 and A/CONF.48/INF.2);

(b) reports of the intergovernmental working groups established in 1971 on Marine Pollution, Soils, Monitoring and Conservation;

(c) the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment;

(d) the recommendations for international level action which, within the framework adopted by the Conference, constitute the Action Plan for the Human Environment;

(e) the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session (resolutions 2994 (XXVII) to 3004 (XXVII));

(f) subsequent extensive consultations, both within and outside the United Nations system, especially a series of informal meetings in February/March 1973 with all interested members of the United Nations family of organizations;

(g) discussions in the Environment Co-ordination Board, as reflected in the report on its first session (UNEP/GC/7).

11. The suggested programme objectives (which are not listed in accordance with importance or suggested priority) are the following:

(a) General objectives

(i) To provide, through interdisciplinary study of natural and man-made ecological systems, improved knowledge for an integrated and rational management of the resources of the biosphere;

(ii) To encourage and support an integrated approach to the planning and management of natural resources so as to take account of environmental consequences to achieve maximum social, economic and environmental benefits;

(iii) To assist all countries, especially developing countries, to deal with their environmental problems and to help mobilize additional financial assistance with a view to promoting the full participation of developing countries in international activities for the preservation and enhancement of the environment;

(b) Particular objectives

(iv) To anticipate and prevent threats to human health and well-being posed by contamination of food, air or water;

(v) To detect and prevent serious threats to the health of the oceans through controlling both ocean-based and land-based sources of pollution, and to assure the continuing vitality of marine stocks;

(vi) To improve the quality of water for human use, in order that all persons may have access to water of a quality compatible with requirements of human health;

(vii) To help governments in improving the quality of life in rural and urban settlements;

(viii) To prevent the loss of productive soil through erosion, salination or contamination, to arrest the process of desertification and to restore the productivity of desiccated soil;

(ix) To help governments in managing forest resources so as to meet present and future needs;

(x) To anticipate natural disasters and to help governments in mitigating their consequences;

(xi) To assist governments in anticipating and in preventing adverse effects of man-induced modifications of climate and weather;

(xii) To encourage and support the development of sources and uses of energy which assure future levels of energy adequate to the needs of economic and social development, while minimizing deleterious effects on the environment;

(xiii) To help to ensure that environmental measures taken by industrialized countries do not have adverse effects on international trade, especially the economic, trade or other interests of developing countries, and to help developing countries maximize opportunities which may arise from them as a result of changes in comparative advantages induced by environmental concerns;

(xiv) To preserve threatened species of plant and animal life, particularly those which are important to human life and well-being;

(xv) To help governments identify and preserve natural and cultural areas which are significant to their countries and which form part of the natural and cultural heritage of all mankind;

(xvi) To help governments take into account in development planning the relationship between population growth, density and distribution and available resources and environmental effects;

(xvii) To help governments increase public awareness through better education and knowledge of environmental concerns and facilitate wide participation in and support for environmental action.

12. The secretariat has also identified certain major functional tasks which are a necessary means of accomplishing the above objectives. One of these is the assessment function, for which the programme name "Earthwatch" was approved at the Conference. This function consists of various evaluation, research, monitoring and information exchange activities, which collectively should improve the basis of knowledge of the kinds needed to guide decision-making at the national and international level. In addition to Earthwatch, the major functional tasks are:

(a) The provision of technical assistance to governments in evaluating their environmental needs and in planning and carrying out measures to meet them;

(b) The provision of assistance for the training of personnel who will require specialized skills in order to participate in the development and application of measures - including environmentally sound technologies - for the protection and enhancement of the environment, with particular emphasis on planning and management;

(c) The provision of financial and other forms of support to strengthen national and regional institutions which can contribute significantly to the international institutional network required for carrying out agreed measures under the programme;

(d) The provision of information and related material in support of national programmes of public information and education in the environmental field.

13. As will be clear to the Governing Council, the task of defining environmental objectives, and of assigning priorities among them, is particularly complex, especially because the interrelatedness of the factors which give rise to environmental problems does not lend itself to a traditional sectoral approach in dealing with them. There is also the question of the degree of specificity to be contained in any objective. For example, while it might be agreed that the single, over-all objective of the United Nations Environment Programme is to protect and enhance the quality of the human environment for present and future generations, it would be difficult thereafter to design programmes of specific steps to accomplish such a broad objective.

14. The UNEP secretariat has sought to translate into programme objectives the broad areas of concern identified during the pre-Conference preparatory process, the Action Plan recommendations, and the principles of the Declaration. It is for the Council to judge whether the content of the suggested objectives is a correct expression of policy, bearing in mind that clarity in the policy objectives will facilitate preparation of more precise programmes by which to achieve them and that each of these objectives can, as appropriate, be divided into sub-objectives with increasing degrees of specificity.

15. Once the Governing Council has decided on its programme objectives, the UNEP secretariat will endeavour to develop integrated programmes for consideration by the Council at its second session. This will necessitate a number of pre-programming activities to initiate preliminary steps and to develop integrated programmes. For both purposes, the secretariat will draw on existing proposals and such others as will undoubtedly emerge. This process will call for consultations with other United Nations bodies having operational responsibilities in the Programme, with Governments whose support and participation is needed, and with sources of expert advice which may be appropriate to the programmes being developed.

16. The attention of the Governing Council is drawn to the concluding paragraph of document UNEP/GC/5, in which it is recommended that the Council:

"(a) Consider and approve the objectives suggested above, and specify objectives which it considers deserve special attention or priority;

(b) Authorize the Executive Director to draw upon resources available to him for the purpose of taking action consistent with approved objectives and tasks, in order that he may be able to initiate preliminary steps and submit comprehensive programmes for achieving these objectives to the Council at its next and succeeding sessions;

(c) State its views on the functions it wishes the Executive Director to perform under the Endangered Species Convention, <sup>4/</sup> and, if possible, provide guidance regarding the secretariat's responsibilities under similar conventions concluded in pursuance of recommendations of the Stockholm Conference;

(d) Provide guidance as to the manner of bringing the International Referral Service into operation at an early date;

(e) Encourage governments, the United Nations system and the international scientific community to contribute to the preparation for early initiation of the monitoring portion of "Earthwatch", including the convening of a meeting in early 1974 at the intergovernmental level."

D. General procedures governing the operations of the Environment Fund

17. The point of departure in the preparation of draft General Procedures for the Environment Fund was the mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), Section III. That resolution inter alia provides that:

(a) the Environment Fund shall finance wholly or partly the costs of new environmental initiatives undertaken within the United Nations system, which will include the initiatives envisaged in the Action Plan, with particular attention to integrated projects, and such other environmental activities as may be decided upon by the Governing Council;

(b) the Environment Fund shall be used for financing such programmes of general interest as regional and global monitoring, assessment and data-collecting systems, including, as appropriate, costs for national counterparts; the improvement of environmental quality management; environmental research; information exchange and dissemination; public education and training; assistance for national, regional and global environmental institutions; the promotion of environmental research and studies for the development of industrial and other technologies best suited to a policy of economic growth compatible with adequate environmental safeguards; and such other programmes as the Governing Council may decide upon; and that in the implementation of such programmes due account should be taken of the special needs of the developing countries;

(c) the Environment Fund shall be directed to the need for effective co-ordination in the implementation of international environmental programmes of the organizations in the United Nations system and other international organizations

18. In the light of these directives of the General Assembly, it was clear that the Fund would not be merely a source of finance for projects, and would not be utilized for financing individual projects on an ad hoc basis. It would rather be a means to put into effect policies and programmes approved by the Governing Council, by being used to finance parts of an over-all programme approved by the Council. In other words, it would serve as a stimulant to sustain a Programme much broader than the elements it would finance. National activities might also be supported, but this would take place only to the extent that such activities formed part of an international programme.

<sup>4/</sup> The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Wild Species of Fauna and Flora, Washington, D.C., 2 March 1973.

19. In this connexion it is important to maintain a clear distinction between the Programme of environmental activities and the programme of utilization of the resources of the Fund. Consideration of the Programme should take place at the conceptual level and should be distinct from a discussion on the utilization of the Fund. Only after defining a Programme which could be implemented collectively, should consideration be given to the financing from the Fund of certain parts of that Programme.

20. Consequently, the procedures which are to be developed for the Fund should be seen as intended to regulate only those parts of environmental activities that will be financed from Fund resources, and not the Programme as a whole. The main features of the draft General Procedures presented to the Governing Council in document UNEP/GC/4 are as follows:

(a) The financial resources of the Fund should be derived primarily from voluntary contributions. The Governing Council may decide to request the Secretary-General to convene pledging conferences. Trust Funds may be established for specific purposes consistent with the policies, aims and activities of the Fund. In addition to voluntary contributions, counterpart contributions (i.e. contributions made in cash or in kind for the cost of specific services and facilities as set out in individual project documents) may be accepted by the Executive Director.

(b) The methods of use of the Fund (experts, fellowships, etc.) are stated in very broad terms. The listing is illustrative, not limitative.

(c) By the terms of section I, paragraph 2 (g) of Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), the Governing Council is required to review and approve annually the programme of utilization of resources of the Fund, and in the draft it is suggested that this programme be called the Fund Programme. It is suggested that the Fund Programme be approved on the basis of so-called "annual" funding, as against "full" funding. In approving the Fund Programme, the Governing Council may wish to make broad allocations of resources and control their use, but authority regarding approval of projects may rest with the Executive Director.

(d) The Executive Director would be called upon to formulate projects on a continuous basis, and identify in the plans of any project the objectives it is designed to achieve. In preparing plans for a project, the Executive Director would be required to identify the various inputs in terms of the financial, technical, managerial and other resources required for its implementation. He would also undertake the necessary consultations with a view to identifying the source of various inputs and the role they would assume in the implementation of the project.

(e) The concept that projects are implemented by executing agencies on behalf of UNEP should find no place in the procedures. Instead, the view is taken that action in the field of environment is a United Nations co-operative venture. Hence, members of the United Nations family co-operating in the Environment Programme, which is a Programme for the United Nations family as a whole, should be regarded as "Co-operating Agencies". (For non-United Nations organizations, the corresponding term would be "Supporting Organizations", with reference to the resolution's mention of their "support" of the Environment Programme). Co-operating Agencies should be active in the implementation of the Programme as of their own right and in pursuance of their own objectives and not just on behalf of UNEP or of the Environment Fund.



(f) The inputs having been identified, the appropriate Co-operating Agencies or Supporting Organizations should be invited to provide them and, within the framework of project documents, be responsible themselves for the inputs they provide. In the selection of the providers of relevant inputs, particular attention should be given to the resources available within the United Nations system. In cases where the Fund is used to assist Co-operating Agencies or Supporting Organizations in financing the inputs they provide, the rules would not make them financially accountable to UNEP with regard to the details of such inputs, since it would be considered that each Co-operating Agency or Supporting Organization acts on its own behalf in providing the input, and not on behalf of UNEP. Interest should rather centre on "performance accountability" which would allow for an assessment of the results obtained by the project with a view to planning the further development of the Programme.

(g) In the implementation of the Fund Programme, the possibility is left open of the use of suitable services on a contractual basis and the Executive Director would also be authorized to carry out projects.

(h) It is intended to provide that the Fund may be used to develop the necessary capacity within UNEP for the implementation of the resolution. It is also envisaged that the Executive Director may use the Fund to develop his capacity for clearing-house type functions, i.e. to provide his good offices to Governments willing to give assistance and those seeking assistance in fields consonant with the aim of the General Assembly resolution.

(i) The Executive Director would have the sole authority to present the proposed Fund Programme to the Governing Council.

(j) Implementation by Co-operating Agencies and Supporting Organizations of activities within the Fund Programme, covered by allocations issued to them by the Executive Director, should be carried out under their respective financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures.

(k) A Fund Programme Reserve should be established to meet unforeseen needs, to finance unanticipated projects and phases of projects and to meet such other purposes as may be determined from time to time by the Governing Council.

(l) Subject to the maintenance of a Financial Reserve, the Fund Programme should be set out and approved in terms of allocations for Projects, Fund Programme Reserve activities, Programme support costs, and the administrative costs of the Fund.

#### E. Fund Programme.

21. The considerations concerning the Programme set out above are reflected in the proposals which have been made for the utilization of the resources of the Fund in 1973 and 1974, as contained in document UNEP/GC/8. The proposed Fund Programme provides that, in 1973, \$5,500,000 should be authorized for Projects, \$825,000 for the Fund Programme Reserve and \$931,000 for Programme support costs, thus making a total amount of \$7,256,000 to be spent in the implementation of the objectives of the Programme. The tentative figures for 1974 are: \$16,000,000 for Projects,

\$1,600,000 for Fund Programme Reserve, and \$1,364,000 for Programme support, with the total being \$18,964,000. The administrative costs of the Fund for 1973 are estimated at \$642,000 for 1973 (approximately 8 per cent of the total Fund Programme) and \$1,057,000 for 1974 (approximately 5 per cent of the total Fund Programme).

F. Matters relating to Human Settlements

(i) United Nations Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements

22. The report of the Secretary-General on a plan for and anticipated costs of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, which was requested by General Assembly resolution 3001 (XXVII), is before the Council in document UNEP/GC/6 and Add.1. 5/

23. The report of the Secretary-General, which was prepared jointly by the UNEP secretariat and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, discusses the reasons for holding a Conference-Exposition and proposes objectives for it. The general objectives proposed are:

(a) to stimulate innovations, serve as a means for the exchange of experience and ensure the widest possible dissemination of new ideas and technologies in the field of human settlements;

(b) to formulate and make recommendations for an international programme in this field which will assist governments;

(c) to stimulate interest in developing appropriate financial systems and institutions for human settlements among those making financial resources available and those in a position to use such resources.

24. It also makes suggestions concerning the preparatory process of the Conference-Exposition, including secretariat arrangements; in this connexion it is suggested, inter alia, that the Governing Council may wish to recommend to the General Assembly that preparations for the Conference-Exposition be guided by an intergovernmental preparatory committee and that the Secretary-General appoint a Secretary-General of the Conference. It is further suggested that the Governing Council may wish to consider to what authority a preparatory committee should report.

25. It should be noted that, after consultations between the Secretary-General, the host Government and other member States, it is expected that the General Assembly at its 28th session will decide to postpone the Conference from 1975 to the late spring of 1976.

26. The report of the Secretary-General also describes the purpose, selection, management, financing and presentation of demonstration projects at the Conference-Exposition and suggests that a programme of demonstration projects should be continued beyond the Conference-Exposition.

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5/ Document UNEP/GC/6/Add.1, containing estimated costs of the Conference-Exposition, will be issued shortly, as will a report on the meeting of experts referred to in paragraph 22 of document UNEP/GC/6.

27. The report concludes by referring to the need for a continuous flow of public information in connexion with the Conference-Exposition and for the participation in the preparatory process of members of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

(ii) Financing of human settlements

28. The Governing Council will be aware that General Assembly resolution 2999 (XXVII) requested the Secretary-General, taking into account the views expressed at the 27th session of the General Assembly, to prepare a study on the establishment and operations of an international fund or financial institution for human settlements for the purposes envisaged in recommendation 17 of the Action Plan for the Human Environment. This study, together with the recommendations and proposals of the Secretary-General, will be submitted to the General Assembly at its 29th session through the Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council.

29. At this stage, the Governing Council may wish to note that arrangements have been made between the UNEP secretariat and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for preparing the study in question, and that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development has agreed to collaborate in the preparation of the study, as provided for by the resolution. It is expected that the study will be available in time for consideration by the Governing Council at its second session.

G. Other matters arising from resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its 27th session

(i) Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

30. As has been noted above, the Declaration adopted by the Conference has been drawn to the attention of the Governing Council by General Assembly resolution 2994 (XXVII). The guidance of the Governing Council is sought concerning the further work which it might wish to undertake on the basis of that Declaration. In this connexion, the Council will be aware that the Preamble to the Declaration (paragraph 7) states that "A growing class of environmental problems, because they are regional or global in extent or because they affect the common international realm, will require extensive co-operation among nations and action by international organizations in the common interest" and that Principle 22 of the Declaration calls for States to co-operate "to develop further the international law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage caused by activities within the jurisdiction and control of such States to areas beyond their jurisdiction".

(ii) Environmental action at the national level

31. The General Assembly, also by its resolution 2994 (XXVII), has drawn the attention of governments to the recommendations for action at the national level which were referred to them by the Conference for their consideration and such action as they might deem appropriate. The Assembly has also stressed the importance of action at the national level to protect and enhance the environment and it has called upon governments to ensure that appropriate national institutions shall be entrusted with the task of co-ordinating environmental action, both national and international.

32. It is suggested that the Council may wish to provide guidance to the Executive Director concerning the action which it may consider should be taken in consequence of the above recommendations.

(iii) World Environment Day

33. The Governing Council will be aware that 5 June 1973 is the first World Environment Day. In designating 5 June as World Environment Day, the General Assembly by its resolution 2994 (XXVII) urged "governments and the organizations in the United Nations system to undertake on that day every year worldwide activities reaffirming their concern for the preservation and enhancement of the environment, with a view to deepening environmental awareness and to pursuing the determination expressed at the Conference".

34. In a telegram of 4 May 1973, the Executive Director drew the attention of governments to the proximity of the first World Environment Day. Information has reached the secretariat of plans by a number of governments to undertake special activities in observation of World Environment Day and it is hoped that further information of this nature may be presented to the Governing Council during its session.

35. In its own plans for observing World Environment Day, the UNEP secretariat, in close co-operation with the United Nations Office of Public Information and its Centre for Economic and Social Information, chose to concentrate on producing materials for use by communications media, namely brief promotional announcements for radio, animated film spots for television and editorial and illustrated feature kits for newspapers. A number of national broadcasting systems will carry special programmes or news items on 5 June 1973, prepared in consultation with the secretariat. In addition to the above, the Office of Public Information has prepared a new series of film programmes on environmental subjects consisting of thirteen half-hour segments; these are available for use by television stations.

(iv) Question of convening a second United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

36. The Governing Council is required by the General Assembly to study the question of convening a second United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, taking into account the status of implementation of the Action Plan and future developments in the field of environment. It should report its views and recommendations to the General Assembly so that the Assembly can take a decision on the matter not later than its 29th session. It is suggested that, in view of the relatively short time since the Stockholm Conference and the early stage in the development of the Environment Programme, the Governing Council may wish to defer consideration of this question to its second session. This would enable it to submit its views to the General Assembly at its 29th session.

H. Establishment of UNEP secretariat in Nairobi

37. The UNEP secretariat has been in existence since 1 January 1973, although an element of continuity in the period since the Conference on the Human Environment was provided by the continuing work of the reduced Conference secretariat until the end of 1972. In the first months of its existence, the UNEP secretariat has

been preoccupied with essential organizational activities, including the development of its structure, the recruitment of staff and preparations for the move to its permanent headquarters in Nairobi.

38. The Governing Council may wish to note that arrangements for this move are proceeding according to plan, that a UNEP office has already been set up in Nairobi, and that it is expected that 1 October 1973 will be the effective date of the commencement of UNEP operations at its headquarters. The secretariat has enjoyed the fullest possible co-operation from the Government of Kenya in making preparations for the establishment of the new headquarters and has also benefited from the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme and of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund which will be holding their 1973 annual meetings in the headquarters building in Nairobi.

#### I. Regional arrangements

39. Within the limits of its resources, the UNEP secretariat has sought to participate in meetings of organizations in the United Nations system and other meetings relevant to its work. Such meetings included the fifteenth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America, the twenty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the twenty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Europe, and the first session of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental Problems. 6/

40. The Executive Director has initiated consultations with the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Director of UNESOB concerning co-operative arrangements for the establishment in each region of a small environment unit to facilitate close co-operation with the governments and institutions of each region in the development of regional environmental activities.

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6/ The programme of work for 1973/1974 adopted by the Senior Advisers, as contained in document ECE/ENV/2 (Annex I), includes the following item:

"16.1.2. Co-operation within the ECE on environmental problems and co-operation with other international organizations (Priority A)

(a) ...

(b) Close co-operation is to be maintained with the United Nations Environment Programme in particular with regard to those projects sponsored by UNEP which concern the ECE region directly. In particular, the Senior Advisers request the ECE secretariat to develop for the next session of the Senior Advisers a proposed programme of work and priorities for the Senior Advisers concerning those decisions taken and projects agreed upon by the UNEP Governing Council at its meeting in June 1973 for which implementary or supplementary work by the ECE could be useful.

(c) Brief reviews are to be made at each plenary session of the environmental activities and programmes of other international bodies within the ECE region, to help to ensure close inter-organizational co-operation."

41. In addition, the Executive Director plans to convene, in close co-operation with the Executive Secretary of the regional economic commission concerned or the Director of UNESCO as the case may be, a periodic meeting of non-United Nations inter-governmental organizations concerned with environment problems in each region. The first of these meetings, bringing together a group of organizations active in the European region, will be held in Geneva on 21 and 22 May 1973.

J. Co-operation with non-governmental organizations

42. The community of non-governmental organizations has continued to offer the UNEP secretariat the kind of constructive co-operation which the Conference secretariat had enjoyed before it. A number of non-governmental organizations are undertaking special environmental activities and a World Assembly of Non-governmental Organizations concerned with the Global Environment will be held in Geneva from 15-17 June, 1973. It is hoped that this Assembly will prepare an agreed statement for delivery to the Governing Council.