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**RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
OF INTEREST TO FAO**

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INTRODUCTION

1. "Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO" is a standing item on the agenda of the Council and the Conference, and is primarily for the information of Member Nations. The document submitted for the item is prepared with a view to keeping the Conference abreast of developments within the United Nations system which have implications for, or particular relevance to, the work of the Organization.

2. An effort has been made to provide brief reviews of major developments of interest to FAO, but the document is of necessity selective in its coverage, and to the extent possible avoids reporting on matters which are the subject of separate items on the Conference's agenda; in these areas UN system developments, and their implications, may be more appropriately treated as part of the Conference's broad substantive discussion.

3. The present document has been prepared for the consideration of both the 103rd session of the Council, and subsequently the Twenty-seventh Session of the Conference. A supplement updating the information presented herein will be issued before the Conference meets.

1. POVERTY ALLEVIATION

1.1 The eradication or alleviation of poverty has received renewed prominence as a development priority throughout the UN system in recent years. The emphasis on poverty alleviation was evident in the discussions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and its subsidiary bodies, and elsewhere. As FAO's mandate and numerous ongoing activities aimed at rural poverty alleviation place the Organization firmly at the forefront of this trend, FAO has been an active participant in this important initiative of the international community.

UNCTAD VIII

1.2 As reported to the Council at its 102nd Session, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, at its eighth session (UNCTAD VIII, Cartagena, February 1992), decided to establish a new Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation. The Standing Committee, currently the only inter-governmental body with a specific focus on poverty, is intended to serve as an international forum for exchanging and examining experiences in poverty alleviation, identifying projects and mobilizing resources, at both national and international levels. FAO attended the first session of the Standing Committee, held on 18-22 January 1993 in Geneva, where it adopted a three-year programme of work covering the following areas: review of existing information and analyses on causes of poverty; programmes and policies for poverty reduction; development assistance and poverty; international trade and poverty alleviation; poverty alleviation and sustainable development; and population, migration and poverty alleviation. The session was preceded by an informal inter-agency consultation on 15 January, where FAO was also an active participant.

1.3 At these meetings, FAO highlighted the ongoing poverty alleviation work of the Organization and affirmed its readiness to assist the Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation within the constraints of its mandate and financial resources. FAO has since designated a focal point for future inter-agency consultations in this regard.

ECOSOC, New York, 29 June - 31 July 1992

1.4 As the Council was informed at its 102nd Session, eradication of poverty was one of the themes of the coordination segment of ECOSOC in July 1992. The report submitted to ECOSOC under this theme contained the contributions of FAO and other UN system organizations outlining their strategies, priorities and programmatic activities in the area of poverty eradication.

1.5 In his statement to ECOSOC, the Director-General called attention to a number of critical issues in the struggle to alleviate poverty in the face of rapid population expansion and growing pressure on natural resources. These included: support for research on crop and livestock varieties for increasing the productivity of poor farmers while protecting the rural environment; a reduction in the debt burden of developing countries, coupled with fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 percent of gross national product for official development assistance (ODA); and improved terms of trade and commodity prices, with a greater opening of industrialized countries' markets to developing countries. The Director-General stressed that primary responsibility for poverty alleviation must lie at the national level. Given the extent of the problem and its global nature, the international community also has an important role to play, and the role of the United Nations system must be seen within the larger context, where governments - developed and developing - are the major actors.

1.6 A joint statement on behalf of FAO, ILO, Unesco and WHO underscored the principle that the elaboration of policies and strategies for the eradication of poverty and for support to vulnerable

groups is the prerogative of governments, and that the UN system and others must therefore support and assist governments in discharging their responsibilities.

1.7 A concluding statement made by the President of the Economic and Social Council contained a number of recommendations for enhancing the coordination and coherence of assistance programmes and activities of the UN system aimed at poverty eradication. In summarizing the debate regarding action at country level, the President affirmed that the organizations of the UN system should provide assistance to developing countries, as required, to enhance their institutional capacity for policy formulation and coordination in the implementation of programmes.

ACC Task Force on Rural Development

1.8 In his address to ECOSOC, the Director-General also underlined the importance of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development as a truly system-wide mechanism for coordination in the area of rural poverty eradication. The chairmanship and the secretariat of the Task Force, of which 31 UN organizations are members, are provided by FAO.

1.9 At its 20th session, held in New York in April 1992, the ACC Task Force on Rural Development reviewed the activities of member organizations in the field of rural poverty alleviation. It referred to the Third Progress Report on follow-up to the 1979 World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD), which contained experiences of the agencies in combatting rural poverty. The Task Force agreed that the Programme of Action of WCARRD continued to be valid and relevant as an overall framework for the agencies' work in support of rural poverty alleviation.

1.10 The Task Force noted some activities of a number of organizations specifically aimed at poverty alleviation, such as: Poverty alleviation through the development of small-scale industries (UNIDO); Impact of national macro-economic policies on the rural poor (UNDP); Health: breaking the cycle of poverty and inequality (WHO); Structural adjustment issues and poverty alleviation (IFAD); and Rural-urban linkages in poverty alleviation (ILO).

United Nations General Assembly, forty-seventh session

1.11 The General Assembly in its forty-seventh session adopted a number of resolutions which referred directly to international efforts aimed at alleviating poverty, thus recognizing that poverty eradication has become one of the priority development objectives for the 1990s. The General Assembly had before it the report of the Secretary-General, previously submitted to ECOSOC in July 1992, as well as the Report of ECOSOC.

1.12 In its resolution 47/197 of 22 December 1992 on "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries", the General Assembly encouraged all countries to undertake national strategies and programmes for the eradication of poverty, and reiterated its request to the international community to adopt specific and effective measures to increase financial flows to developing countries, including reaching the UN target of 0.7 percent of gross national product for official development assistance.

1.13 The General Assembly, in its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992, declared 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, to be observed beginning in 1993, and invited States, assisted by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to organize activities for the observance of the Day which would promote concrete activities on the eradication of poverty and destitution.

1.14 In its resolution 47/134 of 18 December 1992 on "Human rights and extreme poverty", the General Assembly expressed its satisfaction that the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1992/11, had decided to undertake a study of extreme poverty and, in particular, the effects of extreme poverty on the exercise of human rights. The resolution called upon states, the UN system and other international organizations to give the necessary attention to this problem.

1.15 The Assembly, in adopting resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992 on "Convening of a world summit for social development", identified the alleviation and reduction of poverty as one of the core issues to be addressed by the Summit. In adopting resolution 47/180, to convene the "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)", the General Assembly called for the formulation of a global plan of action addressing, *inter alia*, human settlements issues which could effectively contribute to the alleviation of urban and rural poverty. (Information on both of these initiatives is contained in Section 4 below.)

Other initiatives

1.16 At the first meeting of the new Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (CCSQ) of ACC, held on 16-19 March 1993 in Geneva, a paper on poverty alleviation and the role of the UN system was presented by the World Bank. The paper indicated, *inter alia*, areas for potential collaboration on poverty reduction within the UN system. These included analysis of the consistency of country policies, programmes and institutions aimed at reducing poverty; assisting countries to develop poverty reduction strategies; strengthening capacity to implement poverty reduction strategies; helping to improve the quality and reliability of data on poverty; coordination of aid; and sharing the results of monitoring and evaluation of activities aimed at poverty reduction. The Committee welcomed the information provided by the Bank and agreed that it could be the basis for more structured and in-depth discussion at a later stage.

1.17 Another noteworthy development was the release in November 1992 of the IFAD study "The State of World Rural Poverty", which provides a profile of rural poverty in developing countries and calls for an approach to rural development which emphasizes the skills and knowledge of small producers, particularly women.

2. HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Coordination within the UN system

2.1 The Council, at its 102nd Session in November 1992, was informed of General Assembly resolution 46/182 on "strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations" which provided a comprehensive framework for the provision of humanitarian relief assistance, in terms of both guiding principles and the modalities for relief assistance, including its coordination.

2.2 The Council was also informed of the creation of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA), which officially began functioning on 1 April 1992, as well as other arrangements called for under resolution 46/182, such as the Central Emergency Revolving Fund and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. From FAO's perspective, the overall experience since the establishment of DHA has been one of enhanced inter-agency collaboration. The establishment of DHA has coincided with an extraordinary increase in civil and ethnic strife, requiring ever increasing humanitarian relief assistance from the United Nations system. FAO's cooperation with UN/DHA has been particularly intense throughout this period in the preparation of periodic special situation reports and in the preparation and updating of consolidated inter-agency appeals issued by DHA (as

for the Special Emergency for the Horn of Africa (SEPHA) and Drought Emergency in Southern Africa (DESA)), as well as through participation in DHA-led inter-agency missions. FAO has participated actively in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the inter-agency working group and the DHA Task Force on Newly Independent States which is currently determining the UN system's overall approaches, policies and mechanisms for cooperation in those countries. At the country level, FAO representatives are dealing with emergency-related matters, in close consultation with Headquarters, and participating in all liaison and inter-agency emergency-related activities.

2.3 FAO has also been participating in the disaster management training programme by providing experts to regional and country workshops and seminars. The Organization has cooperated in the establishment of a Register of Disaster Management Expertise, containing information on rosters maintained for emergency-related purposes, in response to the General Assembly resolution. It is expected that the Register will increase the speed and effectiveness of UN system and international response to emergencies. In addition, FAO has participated in the work related to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

2.4 FAO has also supported a proposal by DHA for the establishment of an Information System for data on the humanitarian assistance missions undertaken by organizations of the UN system. A system containing up-to-date information on humanitarian aid missions undertaken by different UN organizations is expected to contribute to greater coordination of humanitarian missions and result in a more effective response by the UN system to emergency situations.

2.5 In endorsing the report of the ACC *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Early Warning of New Flows of Refugees and Displaced Persons, on 22 October 1992, the Organizational Committee agreed on behalf of the ACC to establish a consultative mechanism, as recommended by the Working Group. FAO has taken active part in the inter-agency consultative mechanism, a subsidiary organ of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, since its inception in February 1993. This early warning role, serving the dual purposes of prevention and preparedness, is expected to enhance the effective functioning of the United Nations system in crisis situations and to strengthen the UN system's capacity in identifying and addressing at an early stage the root causes of emergency situations.

2.6 The General Assembly resolution called for the establishment of a Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF) to enable operational organizations to ensure prompt response to emergencies. On 22 May 1992, the CERF became operational, having reached its target of US\$50 million in pledges with contributions from twenty-five Member States. A number of disbursements have already been made. US\$2 million was provided to UNICEF to assist vulnerable groups in Kenya, as part of the overall effort of the United Nations in the Horn of Africa. In addition US\$5 million was advanced to UNICEF for providing humanitarian assistance to Iraq and US\$2 million for Mozambique. US\$5 million was provided to UNHCR for Afghanistan. In connection with the humanitarian crisis in Somalia, US\$5 million was advanced to UNICEF, US\$0.5 million was disbursed to the Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia, US\$2 million was approved for WHO projects and US\$1.6 million was made available to FAO.

2.7 The General Assembly at its Forty-seventh Session adopted resolution 47/168 on "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations". The resolution, *inter alia*,

- calls for increased voluntary contributions to the CERF in order to improve the capacity of the UN system to respond rapidly to humanitarian emergencies;

- requests the Secretary-General to review the effectiveness and achievements of the new institutional arrangements for humanitarian assistance, including coordination at the field level; and
- requests the Secretary-General to report on arrangements between the UN system and interested governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for enhanced access, when necessary, to their emergency relief capacities including food reserves, emergency stockpiles and personnel, and logistical support. The resolution also called upon the Secretary-General to present an oral report on the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance to the 1993 session of ECOSOC.

Food emergencies in several African countries

2.8 While food production has improved in a number of African countries, others continue to face food emergencies in 1993. In late 1992 and early 1993, FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), together with the World Food Programme (WFP), carried out Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions to the Horn of Africa, while in March-April 1993 similar missions were mounted to southern Africa. Since November 1992, some six Special Alerts/Summary Reports have been issued, warning the international community of impending food crises, while GIEWS through its regular reports continuously kept governments and donors up-to-date on the latest developments in Africa. As noted above, FAO has also taken an active part in the preparation of Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeals and Quarterly Situation Reports issued by the DHA, focusing on food and non-food needs of the SEPHA (Special Emergency for the Horn of Africa) and DESA (Drought Emergency in Southern Africa) countries. The situation in Rwanda deteriorated sharply in early 1993 following an upsurge of civil disturbances, and a DHA-led Inter-Agency Mission was carried out with FAO participation.

Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa (SEPHA)

2.9 Following good crops harvested in late 1992 in Ethiopia, Eritrea and Sudan, the overall food supply position in the SEPHA countries has improved in 1993. Nevertheless, widespread malnutrition, starvation and deaths from hunger-related diseases continue in many parts of the Horn of Africa. Somalia remains the most seriously affected country. An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission in February 1993 estimated that substantial quantities of food aid would be needed until the next main harvest in August 1993. The mission also concluded that emergency food aid would be required at least through the second half of 1993, the size of which would be subject to developments in the security situation, the availability of farm inputs and not least the performance of the next rainy season. The mission's findings were summarized in a Special Alert issued on 4 March 1993. In the case of Somalia, FAO has assisted DHA in the preparation of the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Programme for Somalia for the period 31 March 1993 to 31 December 1993, and in particular in the elaboration of the food security component of the programme. Arrangements were made for an agricultural rehabilitation mission, to be fielded when security conditions permit. Despite the good cereal crop harvested at the end of 1992, the food situation continues to be grave in southern Sudan where civil war resulted in further internal displacement of thousands of people to areas where they have little opportunity to plant crops, raise livestock or find employment. In Kenya, despite an excellent secondary crop, harvested in February-March, large numbers of displaced and drought-affected people in the north of the country continue to require emergency assistance. As a follow-up to the FAO/WFP Special Alert of September 1992 and the DHA Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal of January 1993, an FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission reviewed the situation in March 1993 and an updated Special Alert was issued covering the period up to the next main harvest in August 1993.

2.10 At the FAO Headquarters level, the Office for Special Relief Operations (OSRO) has continued to be the focal point for the implementation of emergency relief measures. Since September 1992 a total of nine projects (valued at US\$9.5 million financed from TCP and Trust Funds) have been carried out by OSRO in the SEPHA countries. Trust Funds were provided by two donors, namely Italy and the Netherlands. The Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the countries of the Horn of Africa in Addis Ababa in April 1992 recognized that until peace and security are restored in the region, population displacement will continue as will the competition for rapidly diminishing resources. The Declaration also emphasized the importance of the timely delivery of assistance in order to alleviate human suffering.

Drought Emergency in Southern Africa (DESA)

2.11 Following the 1991-92 devastating drought in southern Africa, the food supply situation and the development of the 1992-93 growing season were closely monitored by FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System. In February 1993, a Special Report was transmitted to the donor capitals reviewing early prospects for the 1993 cereal harvest. While overall prospects were better than in the previous year, most countries were expected to reap below-average harvests and would continue to be net importers of substantial quantities of cereals in 1993-94. The situation was further reviewed by a series of FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions to the sub-regions in March-April 1993 in close cooperation with the SADC Early Warning Units. The findings of the missions were communicated to the international community in a Special Alert in mid-April 1993. The contents of the Special Alert, together with an assessment carried out by FAO/OSRO on the need for agricultural assistance for the 1993-94 planting season, were incorporated in a joint DHA/SADC appeal.

2.12 Since September 1992, a total of nine projects valued at US\$2.6 million (US \$697 000 from TCP funds and US\$1 937 000 from Trust Funds) were carried out by OSRO in DESA countries. Trust Funds were provided by two donors (Sweden and the Indonesian Farmers and Fishermen). Rehabilitation of the cold chain for vaccines and provision of seeds in Namibia, assistance to maize production (agricultural inputs and seeds) in Malawi, production of urea molasses in Swaziland, provision of food crop seeds to Tanzania and assistance to the livestock sector in Zimbabwe were the operations carried out from September 1992 to February 1993 in the DESA countries.

Other Emergencies

2.13 The food supply situation in the **New Independent States (NIS)** of the former USSR continues to be monitored closely by the GIEWS and a brief update is published monthly in "Foodcrops and Shortages". FAO has participated in donors' joint food needs assessment mission to three Baltic States, detailed food supply assessment missions carried out jointly with WFP in Armenia and in Azerbaijan, and in the UN Inter-Agency Mission to Georgia to assess the overall food supply situation and the emergency humanitarian needs of conflict affected populations, which led to the issuance of an Inter-Agency Appeal in early March 1993. As noted earlier, FAO also participates in the DHA Task Force on New Independent States which is currently determining the priorities in the humanitarian needs among these countries. FAO has also carried out needs assessments in parts of the former **Yugoslavia**.

2.14 In October 1992, FAO and WFP carried out a mission to **Nepal** to assess the impact of drought on crop production and food supply. The mission's report, recommending, *inter alia*, the provision of 17 500 tons of emergency food aid for the 433 000 most seriously affected persons during 90 days, was transmitted to the international community by a Special Alert dated 8 October 1992. Following floods in **Pakistan**, TCP allocated US\$0.5 million for emergency provision of wheat seed and veterinary medicines. An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission to

Mongolia in January 1993 confirmed that the 1992 harvest was very poor for the third consecutive year. The food supply situation was reported to be serious in 1993 with flour stocks low and the Government's capacity for commercial imports seriously constrained. The mission noted that the situation would deteriorate for the poorer sections of the population, and recommended that the international community assist Mongolia with the provision of food aid to cover the overall food deficit for vulnerable people. In **Cambodia**, the Netherlands contributed to the fertilizer supply for the 1993 dry season, and TCP contributed to the livestock sectors, for a total value of US\$3.0 million.

2.15 FAO has continued to participate in the UN system's humanitarian assistance programmes in **Iraq**, taking the lead role with respect to agriculture, and in undertaking and maintaining updated crop and food supply assessments. The EEC contributed US\$1.4 million towards emergency supply of seeds to **Haiti** and Canada contributed US\$1.1 million for the provision of agricultural inputs. FAO participated in an inter-agency mission to **Rwanda** in late March 1993 to evaluate the humanitarian assistance requirements of internally-displaced persons. Hundreds of thousands of farmers have left their land and are moving on foot to the capital to escape from renewed outbreaks of fighting. The internally displaced persons estimated at 900 000 include 35 000 malnourished children.

3. FOLLOW-UP TO UNCED

3.1 In keeping with the general focus of this document, this section relates primarily to resolutions/decisions taken by intergovernmental bodies regarding UN system follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. It is envisaged that other aspects of follow-up, including FAO follow-up to UNCED, will be reported to the Conference at its Twenty-seventh Session.

Commission on Sustainable Development

3.2 The FAO Council was informed at its 102nd Session of various recommendations concerning international institutional arrangements for UNCED follow-up contained in Chapter 38 of Agenda 21. The General Assembly, at its Forty-seventh Session, adopted resolution 47/191 entitled "Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development" which endorsed these recommendations, particularly those on the establishment of a high-level Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). In this resolution, the Assembly requested that ECOSOC set up the CSD in order to ensure effective follow-up to UNCED, enhance international cooperation, rationalize the intergovernmental decision-making capacity for the integration of environment and development issues and examine progress in implementation of Agenda 21 at the national, regional and international levels. The Commission's functions, outlined in the resolution, include monitoring and review of progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, as well as of the financial resources/mechanisms and transfer of technology required for such implementation. ECOSOC, at its organizational session for 1993, decided (decision 1993/207) to establish the CSD as a functional commission of the Council, along the lines outlined in General Assembly resolution 47/191.

3.3 In this same resolution, the Assembly further recommended that the CSD provide for representatives of various parts of the UN system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to assist and advise it. ECOSOC decided (decision 1993/215) the rules of procedure for the CSD which, with several supplementary arrangements outlined below, would be those of the functional commissions of ECOSOC. With regard to representation of specialized agencies and other intergovernmental bodies, it decided that "... the CSD or a subsidiary thereof shall invite relevant intergovernmental organizations within and outside the United Nations

system, including multilateral financial institutions, to appoint special representatives to the Commission to serve as focal points for the Commission's members and the Secretariat."

3.4 With regard to representation and consultation with NGOs, ECOSOC decided that NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC may designate representatives to the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary organs. It also decided that "... any NGO which was accredited to participate in the work of the Preparatory Committee for UNCED by the conclusion of its fourth session can apply and shall be granted accreditation, subject to approval of the Council and bearing in mind the provisions of Article 71 of the Charter of the UN." Article 71 requires consultation with the national government before accreditation of a national NGO. ECOSOC further decided that NGOs will not have any negotiating role in the work of the Commission and that their written presentations to the CSD will be made at their own expense through the Secretariat, and will not be issued as official documents. Oral interventions by NGOs, given their large number, would be at the discretion of the Chairman of the Commission or its subsidiary organ. ECOSOC requested the Commission to encourage an equitable representation of NGOs from developed and developing countries and a fair balance between NGOs with an environment focus and those with a development focus.

3.5 The General Assembly recommended that the CSD meet once a year for two to three weeks and decided that the first substantive session of the CSD would be held in New York but without prejudice to the venue of future sessions. ECOSOC decided (decision 1993/207) that the dates of this session would be from 14 to 25 June 1993. ECOSOC also elected 53 Member States as members of the Commission: 13 African States; 11 Asian States; 6 Eastern European States; 10 Latin American and Caribbean States and 13 Western European and other States.

3.6 An organizational session of the CSD was held in New York from 24 to 26 February 1993. At this session, the CSD elected its Chairman, H.E. Razali Ismail of Malaysia, and four Vice-Chairmen from Antigua and Barbuda, Tunisia, the Czech Republic and Canada. With regard to the provisional agenda of its first substantive session, the Commission decided that a high-level segment with ministerial participation would consider urgent and major emerging issues, at the end of each session. The provisional agenda for the first substantive session also includes an item "Progress in the incorporation of recommendations of UNCED in the activities of international organizations and measures undertaken by the ACC to ensure that sustainable development principles are incorporated into programmes and processes within the UN system".

3.7 As regards its future work, the Commission decided that at each session and on the basis of its agenda the need for and the number of informal negotiating groups would be decided. In preparing the agendas of its forthcoming sessions, it will decide which reports to consider from relevant organizations.

3.8 The multi-year programme of work, recommended by the Commission at its organizational session, contains the following clusters:

- A. Critical elements of sustainability
- B. Financial resources and mechanisms
- C. Education, science, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity building
- D. Decision-making structures
- E. Roles of major groups
- F. Health, human settlements and fresh water
- G. Land, desertification, forests and biodiversity
- H. Atmosphere, oceans and all kinds of seas
- I. Toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes.

The CSD recommended that clusters A, B, C, D and E be considered on an annual basis and that clusters F, G, H and I be considered on a multi-year basis. It is foreseen that the multi-year thematic programme of work will be adopted by the Commission at its first substantive session in June 1993.

3.9 The Assembly requested all UN specialized agencies and related organizations of the UN system to strengthen and adjust as appropriate their activities, programmes and medium-term plans, in line with Agenda 21, particularly projects for promoting sustainable development, and to make their reports on the steps taken available to the CSD and ECOSOC in 1993 or, at the latest, in 1994. The Governing Bodies of UNEP, UNDP and UNCTAD were requested by the Assembly to examine the relevant provisions of Chapter 38 of Agenda 21 at their next sessions and submit reports on their specific plans for implementing Agenda 21 to the General Assembly at its Forty-eighth Session, through the CSD and ECOSOC. All relevant Governing Bodies were invited to ensure that tasks assigned to them are carried out, including the elaboration and publication of reports on activities and that continuous reviews are undertaken of their policies, programmes, budgets and activities.

3.10 The Assembly decided that the organizational modalities for the Commission should be reviewed in the context of the overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21 during a special session of the General Assembly to be convened not later than 1997. In its resolution 47/190 entitled "Report of the UN Conference on Environment and Development" the Assembly decided that such a session would be held.

High-level Advisory Board

3.11 The idea for a high-level Advisory Board is to be found in paragraph 38.18 of Agenda 21, which indicated that the intergovernmental bodies, the Secretary-General and the UN system as a whole might benefit from the expertise of such a Board, consisting of eminent persons knowledgeable about environment and development, including relevant sciences, appointed in their personal capacity by the Secretary-General. Agenda 21 further indicated that the Secretary-General should make appropriate recommendations in this regard to the General Assembly at its Forty-seventh Session.

3.12 The General Assembly, in its resolution 47/191, endorsed the view of the Secretary-General that such a Board should consist of eminent persons broadly representative of all regions of the world, with recognized expertise on the broad spectrum of issues to be dealt with by the Commission on Sustainable Development, drawn from relevant scientific disciplines, industry, finance and other major non-governmental constituencies, as well as various disciplines related to environment and development, and that due account should be given to gender balance. It decided that the main task of the Board would be to give broad consideration to issues related to implementation of Agenda 21, taking into account the thematic multi-year programme of work of the CSD and to provide expert advice in that regard to the Secretary-General and, through him, to the CSD, ECOSOC and the General Assembly. The Assembly took note of the views of the Secretary-General regarding the possible overlap between the functions of the Board and the Committee for Development Planning, and requested the Secretary-General to submit appropriate proposals to ECOSOC in the early part of 1993.

3.13 ECOSOC, at its organizational session, was informed in a report of the Secretary-General that the Board would consist of 15 to 25 internationally recognized personalities to be appointed by the Secretary-General. Members of the Board would be nominated for a period of two years. The Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD) would act as the Executive Secretary of the Board. The Board would meet for two to three

days in advance of the sessions of the CSD and might, at the request of the Commission, take part in its sessions. The functions of the Board outlined in the Secretary-General's report were:

- to provide high-level advice, proposals and recommendations on issues and themes to be addressed by the CSD and its high-level meetings;
- to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General, and through him to intergovernmental bodies, emerging problems related to sustainable development and possible ways and means of resolving them;
- to provide to the Secretary-General, and through him to the ACC, its views on the expectations and concerns of major constituencies and groups on sustainable development issues and on the contribution of the UN system in addressing those issues;
- to contribute to the building of partnerships between the UN and scientific, business and academic communities and major NGO groups; and
- to mobilize support for UN activities in the area of environment and development throughout the constituencies and groups represented by its members.

3.14 The Secretary-General's report further proposed the development of a roster of technical experts, drawing on rosters already existing within the UN system. The roster could also include current members of the Committee for Development Planning. Consultation between experts on the roster and the Board could be organized either through correspondence or through small *ad hoc* expert group meetings. It is foreseen that experts on the roster could also prepare studies and reports for consideration by the CSD or ECOSOC. ECOSOC took note of the proposals of the Secretary-General on the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development and decided to revert to the matter at its resumed organizational session, scheduled to be held on 29 and 30 April 1993.

Secretariat support arrangements

3.15 The General Assembly, by its resolution 47/191, called upon the Secretary-General to establish a clearly identifiable, highly qualified and competent secretariat support structure to provide support for the CSD, the high-level Advisory Board and the ACC Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (see below). The Secretariat should be funded from the UN regular budget and depend to the maximum extent possible upon existing budgetary resources. It should draw on the expertise gained and the working methods and organizational structures developed during the preparatory process of UNCED. The Secretariat will be located in New York, should have an office in Geneva and a liaison office in Nairobi.

3.16 The General Assembly in its resolution 47/191 took note of the decision of the Secretary-General to establish a new Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD) and that it was within this context that the secretariat support structure should be placed. The principle functions of DPCSD will be: (1) policy development and coordination; (2) substantive support to the General Assembly and, as appropriate, ECOSOC and relevant subsidiary bodies; (3) substantive support for the CSD; (4) inter-agency coordination and technical secretariat services (for UN conferences, the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, inter-agency coordination machinery) and (5) public outreach (NGOs). Reorganization within the UN Secretariat has also included the creation of two other new departments from the former Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD): the Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis (DESIPA) and the Department of Development Support and Management (DDSMS). All three departments will be headed by an Under-Secretary-General.

Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development

3.17 At its 102nd Session, the FAO Council was informed of the establishment of an ACC Task Force on Environment and Development, chaired by the Director-General of FAO, to assist the ACC in its consideration of follow-up to UNCED. The Council was also informed that on the basis of the work and recommendations of this Task Force, ACC decided to establish an Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD). The Committee will constitute one of the main standing committees subsidiary to the ACC. It will advise the ACC on policy issues relating to follow-up to UNCED, particularly ways and means of addressing such issues, in order to ensure effective cooperation and coordination of the UN system in the implementation of Agenda 21. The IACSD met in New York from 23 to 25 March 1993 with a view to launching a process of inter-agency consultations which would assist ACC to streamline the inter-agency coordinating machinery; allocate and share responsibilities for implementation of Agenda 21; monitor new and additional financing requirements related to Agenda 21; assess new and existing reporting requirements related to implementation of Agenda 21 and make recommendations for their streamlining. In addition to preparing the discussion on UNCED follow-up by ACC, at its first regular session of 1993, the IACSD will also address preparation of the first substantive session of the Committee on Sustainable Development.

3.18 The core members of IACSD, as decided by the Secretary-General, are: UNEP, UNDP, ILO, FAO, Unesco, WHO, WMO, World Bank and IAEA. Its chairman is the Under-Secretary-General, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

3.19 FAO's active participation in the IACSD is an important part of its efforts to coordinate its activities relating to UNCED follow-up and cooperate with sister agencies of the UN system. It is, however, only one facet of a broad spectrum of cooperative activities involving other organizations in areas relevant to Agenda 21. The Conference and Council have been kept regularly informed of these activities, which include, *inter alia*, the World Climate Programme, the International Programme on Chemical Safety, formulation of and follow-up to the Convention on Biodiversity, and of those activities involving financing institutions and financial mechanisms such as the GEF and Capacity 21.

An international convention to combat desertification

3.20 Acting upon a recommendation of UNCED, the General Assembly, by its resolution 47/188, decided to establish under its auspices an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994.

3.21 The Assembly further decided that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) would hold five substantive sessions, each lasting two weeks, to be held in Geneva, Nairobi, New York and Paris. The first session will be held in Nairobi. As requested by the Assembly, the Secretary-General has now established an *ad hoc* secretariat in Geneva.

3.22 The General Assembly invited UNDP, UNSO, UNEP, FAO, IFAD, WHO, WMO, UNCTAD, Unesco and other relevant organizations dealing with desertification, drought and development to make appropriate contributions to the work of the INC. It decided to establish a multidisciplinary panel of experts to assist the *ad hoc* secretariat, while making full use of resources and expertise within and available to governments and/or organizations of the UN system dealing with drought and desertification.

3.23 An organizational session of the Committee was held in Geneva from 26 to 29 January 1993. At this session, the INC elected Ambassador Bo Kjellen of Sweden as its chairman. It decided that its first substantive session will be held in Nairobi from 24 May to 3 June 1993 and adopted the provisional agenda for this session.

3.24 FAO has been cooperating closely with the *ad hoc* secretariat, providing the names of experts and a bibliography of relevant FAO publications, and is assisting with the preparation of documentation for the first substantive session of the INC.

A global conference on the sustainable development of small island developing states

3.25 By its resolution 47/189, the General Assembly decided to convene in April 1994 the first global conference on the sustainable development of small island developing states, and accepted the offer of the Government of Barbados to host the conference. It decided to establish a Preparatory Committee which will hold a two-day organizational session no later than April 1993 and a substantive session in August 1993.

3.26 The Assembly affirmed that the Conference should elaborate strategies and measures to enhance the sustainable development of small island states. The Conference should adopt plans and programmes to support sustainable development and the utilization of marine and coastal resources, which includes meeting essential human needs, maintaining biodiversity and improving the quality of life for island people. The Conference should also adopt measures that will enable small island developing states to cope effectively, creatively and sustainably with environmental changes and to mitigate impacts and reduce threats posed to marine and coastal resources. The Conference is to examine strategies for national and international action with a view to arriving at specific agreements and commitments by governments and intergovernmental organizations for defined activities.

3.27 The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report for the substantive session of the Preparatory Committee, containing a review of existing global and regional programmes of action for their applicability to and their combined effect on sustainable development of small island developing countries, with specific recommendations on any changes to those programmes of action which may be needed to establish greater consistency with the principles of Agenda 21. Also, it requested him to provide - within the administrative arrangements to coordinate implementation of Agenda 21 and the servicing of the CSD and in close cooperation with UNEP, UNDP, UNCTAD, Unesco, FAO and other relevant organizations - a focal point with a senior official at an appropriate level and with specialized expertise necessary to service fully the preparations for and holding of the Conference and any resulting follow-up. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure the coordination of contributions from the UN system through the ACC.

3.28 The Assembly stressed the importance of holding regional technical meetings as a means of preparing substantive input to the conference and invited regional and sub-regional bodies, in close cooperation with UNEP, UNDP, UNCTAD, FAO, Unesco and other organizations to organize such meetings. FAO participated in a regional meeting organized by ESCAP and made documentation available to participants, particularly the Bridgetown Declaration adopted at the FAO-organized inter-regional Conference of Small Island Countries on Sustainable Development and Environment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries held in Barbados in April 1992. FAO is currently planning follow-up activities to this conference. In view of these previous and ongoing efforts the Organization is well placed to contribute, within its fields of competence, to the preparatory process of the global Conference outlined in General Assembly resolution 47/189.

A conference on straddling and highly migratory fish stocks

3.29 The General Assembly, by its resolution 47/192, decided to convene in 1993, in accordance with the mandate agreed upon at UNCED, an intergovernmental conference under UN auspices on straddling and migratory fish stocks which should complete its work before the Forty-ninth Session of the Assembly. It also decided that the conference will take into account relevant activities at the subregional, regional and global levels, with a view to promoting effective implementation of the provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on straddling stocks and highly migratory fish stocks.

3.30 The conference, drawing, *inter alia*, "on scientific and technical studies by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, should: (a) identify and assess existing problems related to the conservation and management of such fish stocks; (b) consider means of improving fisheries cooperation among States; and (c) formulate appropriate recommendations".

3.31 The Assembly invited relevant specialized agencies, particularly FAO and other appropriate organizations of the UN system, as well as regional and subregional fisheries organizations, to contribute relevant scientific and technical studies and reports and to organize regional and subregional technical meetings in order to contribute to the work of the conference. In the preambular part of resolution 47/192, the Assembly recalled the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development, adopted by the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, organized by FAO in 1984, and took note of the Declaration of Cancun, adopted at the International Conference on Responsible Fishing, convened by the Government of Mexico in consultation with FAO in 1992.

4. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, June 1993

4.1 The Council, at its 102nd Session in November 1992, was informed that a World Conference on Human Rights would be held in 1993, as decided by General Assembly resolutions 45/155 of December 1990 and 46/116 of December 1991, and that the Secretary-General had appointed the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights as Secretary-General of the Conference.

4.2 By its decision 46/473 of 6 May 1992, the General Assembly accepted the invitation of the Government of Austria to host the Conference at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993. The Preparatory Committee met throughout 1992, and regional preparatory meetings were held in Tunis, San José and Bangkok. At its Forty-seventh Session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/122 of 18 December 1992 which contained a provisional agenda for the Conference. The agenda includes, *inter alia*, progress made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the identification of obstacles to further progress; the relationship between development, democracy and the universal enjoyment of all human rights; and contemporary trends and challenges to the full realization of all human rights by all, including members of vulnerable groups. The General Assembly, with resolution 47/123 of 18 December 1992 on the "Right to development", underlined that one of the objectives of the World Conference on Human Rights would be to examine the relation between development and the enjoyment by everyone of economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights.

International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, September 1994

4.3 FAO has been participating actively in the preparations leading up to the International Conference on Population and Development. By its decision 1992/37 of 30 July 1992, subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly, ECOSOC accepted the offer of the Government of Egypt to host the Conference in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994. The Secretary-General has since appointed the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund as Secretary-General of the Conference.

4.4 Through its resolution 46/176 of 22 December 1992 the General Assembly endorsed population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development as the overall theme of the Conference, recommended ministerial-level participation, and stressed the importance of the regional population conferences being convened by UNFPA and the regional commissions preceding the International Conference. FAO has been represented at these regional conferences, which reviewed population issues by geographic area at the government level, and has also submitted papers to and participated in some of the Expert Group Meetings held as part of the preparatory process.

World Summit for Social Development, Denmark, 1995

4.5 The FAO Council was informed at its 102nd Session of the recommendation by ECOSOC, in decision 1992/27 of July 1992, that the General Assembly convene a World Summit for Social Development in early 1995 at the level of Heads of State or Government. The Council was also advised that consultations undertaken by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General had revealed widespread support for the proposed Summit.

4.6 There have been a number of developments in the intervening months. At its Forty-seventh Session the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/92 calling for the Summit to be convened in early 1995, accepting the offer of the Government of Denmark to host it, establishing a Preparatory Committee and setting out the objectives of the Summit. The resolution, *inter alia*, identified three core issues affecting all societies which are to be addressed by the Summit: (a) the enhancement of social integration, particularly of the more disadvantaged and marginalized groups; (b) alleviation and reduction of poverty; and (c) expansion of productive employment. The resolution also called upon the Commission for Social Development to consider at its thirty-third session in 1993 the agenda of the Summit as well as the question of holding an extraordinary session dedicated solely to the Summit before the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee, scheduled to take place in 1994.

4.7 On the General Assembly's recommendation, "World Summit for Social Development, including the role of the United Nations system in promoting social development" has been adopted as the major theme of the high-level segment of the substantive session of ECOSOC, to be held on 28-30 June 1993. FAO has contributed to the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General for this debate.

4.8 FAO expects to be actively involved in preparations for the World Summit for Social Development, in view of the importance of food and nutrition for socio-economic development and the relevance of FAO's work to one of the core issues to be addressed by the Summit - alleviation and reduction of poverty. FAO's social development objectives, consistent with the Organization's mandate, are synthesized in the Programme of Action of the 1979 World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD), the continuing validity of which was confirmed by the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference. At the same session, the Conference adopted the Plan of Action on People's Participation - also of direct relevance to the subject matter of the Summit. The outcome of the International Conference on Nutrition will also constitute a substantial contribution to the preparations for the World Summit.

Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-5 September 1995

4.9 The Council was informed, at its 102nd Session in November 1992, of FAO's involvement in preparations for the "Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace", to be held in 1995. With its resolution 47/95 of 16 December 1992, the General Assembly endorsed ECOSOC decision 1992/272 of 30 July 1992 concerning preparations for this Conference. The General Assembly also accepted the offer of the Government of China to host the Conference in Beijing, and specified the dates of the Conference as 4-15 September 1995.

4.10 FAO activities in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women envisage Organization-wide involvement. The Conference provides an occasion for FAO to renew its commitment to the promotion of women's participation in development, as embodied in the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development, endorsed by the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference in 1989. FAO has been involved in system-wide preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women through its participation in the *Ad Hoc* Inter-agency Meeting on Women, and attendance at sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. FAO expects to make a significant contribution to the Conference in the area of its mandate and expertise, including macro-economic policies and their impact on women. The Organization, in collaboration with other UN agencies, is also providing technical assistance to Member Nations in their preparatory activities for the Conference.

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Turkey,
3-14 June 1996

4.11 In its resolution 46/164 of 19 December 1991, the General Assembly recalled the recommendations adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (31 May-11 June 1976, Vancouver) and called for consideration at the General Assembly's Forty-seventh Session of the question of convening a world-wide United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), with multidisciplinary and high-level participation.

4.12 At its Forty-seventh Session, the General Assembly considered a report of the Secretary General which, *inter alia*, proposed the objectives, scope and content for a second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). In its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly decided to convene Habitat II, established a Preparatory Committee, and directed the Secretary-General to establish an *ad hoc* secretariat for the Conference which would be organizationally part of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). The General Assembly accepted the offer of the Government of Turkey to host the Conference, and decided that Habitat II would be held on 3-14 June 1996 in Turkey.

4.13 The resolution affirms that the Conference should review trends in policies and programmes undertaken to implement the recommendations of Habitat; conduct a mid-term review of the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000; make recommendations for attaining its objectives by the target date; review the contribution of national and international action in the area of human settlements to the implementation of Agenda 21; review current global trends in economic and social development as they affect planning, development and management of human settlements and make related recommendations for future action.

4.14 The Preparatory Committee held its organizational session from 3 to 5 March 1993 in New York, electing officers and considering the report of the Secretary-General containing recommendations on substantive issues in the preparatory process.

5. INTERNATIONAL DECADES, YEARS AND DAYS

- 5.1 The United Nations Decade of International Law, 1990-1999, was declared by the General Assembly as a means of promoting acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law. In December 1992, the General Assembly adopted a programme of activities for 1993-94 and called for the Secretary-General to continue reporting in connection with the Decade - a process in which FAO has cooperated.
- 5.2 Through its decision 1992/289 of 31 July 1992, ECOSOC endorsed resolution 48/3 of 23 April 1992 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, proclaiming the **Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002**. Establishment by ECOSOC of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, was welcomed by the General Assembly at its Forty-seventh Session. The Assembly urged a shift in focus from awareness-raising to action, in order to give higher priority and visibility to disability issues within the work programme of the United Nations system.
- 5.3 The General Assembly, through its resolution 47/3 of 14 October 1992, also proclaimed 3 December as **International Day of Disabled Persons**, inviting Member States and concerned organizations to intensify efforts to improve the situation of persons with disabilities.
- 5.4 To mark the final year of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, an illustrated inter-agency publication entitled *A Decade of Accomplishment, 1983-1992* has been produced, which includes a chapter on FAO's work to fight river blindness in Western Africa.
- 5.5 The Council was informed at its 102nd session in November 1992 that the General Assembly had proclaimed 1993 as the **International Year for the World's Indigenous People**. During its Forty-seventh Session the General Assembly established "Indigenous People - a new partnership" as the theme of the International Year, and called upon governments, non-governmental organizations and representatives of indigenous groups to consider making contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations. A number of ECOSOC resolutions in 1992 also treated issues relating to indigenous peoples.
- 5.6 FAO has continued its collaboration with other UN agencies on preparations for the **International Year of the Family in 1994**, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/82. FAO has participated in the three *Ad Hoc* Inter-Agency Meetings convened for the preparation of the International Year. FAO Regional Offices are participating in planning activities both with Headquarters and with the United Nations Regional Commissions. FAO is also providing assistance for the inter-agency production of a videotape on female-headed and single-parent families. The theme of the International Year of the Family was introduced at a recent meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Group of International NGO's Representatives to FAO Residing in Rome.
- 5.7 The General Assembly at its Forty-seventh Session adopted a Proclamation on Ageing which, *inter alia*, includes a decision to observe the year 1999 as the **International Year of Older Persons** in recognition of humanity's demographic coming of age and the promise it holds for maturing attitudes and capabilities in social, economic, cultural and spiritual undertakings in the next century. FAO participates in the UN system consultation process on ageing, coordinated by the UN Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, which will be leading up to the International Year of Older Persons in 1999. Related FAO activities aim at enhancing attention to the needs of older persons in nutrition programmes and in rural development, with particular attention to older women as a vulnerable group.

5.8 The General Assembly at its Forty-seventh Session welcomed the initiative of Unesco in proclaiming 1995 **United Nations Year for Tolerance**, and requested the Director-General of Unesco to prepare, in consultation with other interested organizations, suggestions on the observance of the Year and submit them to the Assembly at its Forty-eighth Session, through ECOSOC. It also invited ECOSOC to consider the question at its next session and transmit a recommendation to the General Assembly.

5.9 Considering that all social and economic activities rely heavily on the supply and quality of fresh water, and in recognition of the importance of conservation and sustainable management of water resources, the General Assembly declared 22 March of each year as **World Day for Water**, with observance to begin in 1993, in conformity with the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development contained in Chapter 18 of Agenda 21.

6. DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

6.1 The General Assembly, at its Forty-seventh Session in 1992, adopted a number of resolutions related to drug abuse control:

- 47/97 Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;
- 47/98 Respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking;
- 47/99 Examination of the status of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances;
- 47/100 Implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances: action by agencies of the United Nations system;
- 47/101 United Nations International Drug Control Programme; and
- 47/102 International action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

6.2 In addition, ECOSOC adopted decision 1992/28 in July 1992 entitled "Improvement of the functioning of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs".

6.3 These resolutions and decision, *inter alia*, urge all States to intensify their support of international initiatives aimed at controlling drug abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotic and psychotropic substances. General Assembly resolution 47/100, in particular, calls upon the relevant United Nations agencies to establish agency-specific plans to incorporate into their programmes all the mandates and activities contained in the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control. The resolution also requests the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) to update the System-Wide Action Plan for consideration by ECOSOC at its regular session of 1993 and by the General Assembly at its Forty-eighth Session.

6.4 FAO has continued to play a supportive role in the overall effort of the United Nations system to reduce the production and use of illegal drugs. It also continues to be an active participant in the

inter-agency meetings on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control, convened by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP).

6.5 The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June), and the United Nations Decade Against Drug Abuse (1991-2000), established by the General Assembly in 1990, are two mechanisms designed to draw attention to drug abuse-related problems and to recognize activities being undertaken around the world to help reduce drug abuse. FAO and other UN system organizations cooperate with UNDCP in disseminating information and promoting activities connected with the Day and Decade Against Drug Abuse.

6.6 Many of FAO's activities to combat drug abuse continue to be in the area of demand reduction, through sustainable agricultural and rural development initiatives which include education and training for youth and adults. FAO has also continued its work on crop substitution measures which, as part of an overall rural development strategy, have an important role to play in fighting drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Work is also continuing in the effort to perfect satellite imagery techniques for identifying areas where illegal crops are grown - particularly difficult with small plots or in areas where intercropping is practised.

6.7 Within the limits of its mandate, expertise and available resources, FAO will continue to contribute to the international community's intensified campaign against drug abuse.

7. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES: UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/199

7.1 It will be recalled that in its resolution 44/211 of 11 December 1989, the General Assembly called upon all parts of the system engaged in operational activities to pursue certain themes in these activities such as national execution, the programme approach, decentralization, and the harmonization of procedures. The Council discussed this resolution at its ninety-eighth session in November 1990, and its report was transmitted to the Secretary-General for submission, along with the reports of other organizations, to ECOSOC in the context of the Triennial Policy Review of the Operational Activities of the UN System in 1992.

7.2 That Review was completed in December 1992 at the Forty-seventh Session of the General Assembly which, in reverting to much the same themes and wishing to render these more operational, issued UN General Assembly Resolution 47/199 which requests a coordinated implementation of its provisions by all organizations of the system engaged in operational activities. The resolution sets out a reporting process for this involving, *inter alia*, a yearly progress report to be submitted by organizations to their respective Governing Bodies, to be incorporated in yearly progress reports to be submitted to ECOSOC by the Secretary-General and culminating in the next Triennial Review of Operational Activities by ECOSOC and the General Assembly in 1995.

7.3 While it is clearly too early to report on the effects and implementation of such a recent and extensive General Assembly resolution, a number of substantive comments are offered here for information. A full progress report on the implications and impact of resolution 47/199 on FAO's operational activities will be made available later in 1993 for discussion at the Twenty-seventh Session of the Conference.

7.4 Resolution 47/199 is a lengthy and relatively heterogeneous document of some 55 paragraphs covering a wide range of subjects. Not all provisions of the resolution are applicable to FAO, but those of more direct relevance include: (i) the concept of a "country strategy note" (CSN), (ii) the implementation of the programme approach, (iii) national execution, (iv) decentralization, (v) the

Resident Coordinator system, (vi) field management training and (vii) the harmonization of rules and procedures.

7.5 It should be emphasized that, wherever possible, FAO intends to continue to pursue a joint approach to such matters in concert with other agencies and organizations, in particular under the ACC framework in the context of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (CCSQ).

Country Strategy Note (CSN)

7.6 The resolution called for the implementation of a CSN concept in countries where the government so chooses. The CSN would be formulated by interested governments, with the assistance of the UN system as requested. It would, *inter alia*, outline the response of the system to the relevant assistance requirements identified in the CSN. The system's contribution would be formulated under the team leadership of the Resident Coordinator, and would help guide the country programmes and programming exercises of the funding organizations, and eventually major programming initiatives of all UN system organizations and agencies.

7.7 FAO and other organizations have already addressed this subject at the inter-agency level and a draft paper on the approach to be pursued has been agreed upon for eventual submission to ECOSOC in July 1993. During 1993 the UNDP Resident Representatives, in consultation with other country-level representatives of the system, including FAORs, will discuss with governments their interest in implementing such an approach, and the possible contributions and support required from the UN system. In practice, it is expected that a limited number of countries will be involved, which will permit the concept to be field-tested for necessary refinements.

Programme approach

7.8 The resolution requested the Secretary-General to promote early agreement by UN system organizations on a common interpretation of the programme approach, so that this can be reported to ECOSOC in July 1993. It bears note that FAO and other organizations had been seized of this matter in connection with the earlier resolution 44/211, and that the paper under preparation for ECOSOC represents a continuation of collaborative efforts to assess and define more fully the programme approach which have been underway for several years. Indeed, a "common UN framework" for the programme approach was endorsed by ACC at its October 1992 session.

7.9 In essence, the programme approach by the UN system is seen as linked to the national programmes of recipient governments in response to national development goals. These, and the commitment of the concerned government to programme approaches, are seen as pre-conditions for the system's contributions in this respect. It was also generally agreed that the various agencies of the system have necessarily followed different kinds of programme approaches in maximizing the benefits of their assistance, so that flexibility is required in determining to what extent all assistance should be linked to national programming frameworks. In line with these principles, FAO will continue to work with other parts of the system in the further development and, where possible, testing of programme approaches at country level.

National execution

7.10 The resolution called for agreement on a common interpretation of national execution to be applied by the system, and to be reported to ECOSOC in July 1993. FAO, working with other organizations, has already made considerable progress on this subject, subsequent to the implementation in 1992 of the UNDP Support Costs Successor Arrangements. As with the previous two subjects, the meeting in March 1993 of the ACC's Consultative Committee on Substantive

Questions (CCSQ) offered an opportunity for organizations to concur on a draft paper on national execution and implementation arrangements, which could be conveyed to ECOSOC in July 1993 as required by the resolution. This paper distinguishes between execution, which entails overall responsibility for the formulation and management of programmes and projects by the recipient country, and implementation, which entails the actual procurement and delivery of all programme/project inputs and their conversion into outputs.

7.11 While national execution would over time become the norm for programmes and projects funded by the system, it should be pursued in a pragmatic manner taking into account the needs and capacities of each developing country. At all stages of the project cycle, irrespective of execution or implementing arrangements, governments should continue to have access to the technical advice and support of the UN system, and in particular of the specialized and technical agencies. Funding organizations should make full use of the capacities of the agencies to ensure substantive accountability.

7.12 FAO will continue to support governments in building up capacities to undertake national execution, for instance through training and the use of National Directors. There will also continue to be an ongoing inter-agency assessment of the actual experience in national execution through fora such as the CCSQ, so that lessons can be learned and necessary adjustments made.

Decentralization

7.13 Resolution 47/199 called for increased decentralization and the delegation of authority to field offices. A full assessment of this aspect will be provided by the Secretary-General in the context of the Triennial Policy Review in 1995. It is acknowledged that action on these aspects must be left primarily to individual organizations and their governing bodies.

7.14 FAO and other specialized agencies have maintained that the degree to which they can decentralize decisions to the field and increase levels of delegated authority differs from that of the UN funds and programmes. Small offices of two or three officers are not in a position to handle the levels of financial and programme authority that can be delegated to larger offices with numerous staff. Moreover, the installation of substantial resident technical capacities in country offices is usually not possible where many specialist fields are involved and where efficiency dictates servicing requirements from central units. FAO therefore considers delegated authority to the field, already substantial, on a case-by-case basis.

Resident Coordinator system

7.15 The resolution called for, *inter alia*, the strengthening of the UN Resident Coordinator system, including closer system-wide cooperation and coordination at country level through integrated assistance, improved division of labour, a wider pool of qualified development professionals eligible for appointment and the establishment of field-level committees. While many of these aspects may have implications for FAO, an in-depth assessment of this subject as presented in the resolution remains to be carried out on an inter-agency basis, and some aspects of the situation remain under review in the UN itself.

Field management training

7.16 Resolution 47/199 called for continuing the development of integrated system-wide training programmes. FAO has been active in this area through its significant participation in the field management training courses established at the Turin ILO Training Centre, at which it is represented on the Advisory Panel for this programme. This kind of training, and the courses offered, will

continue to attract the interest of FAO provided they maintain their relevance and usefulness, and are designed and guided on a system-wide basis. As in the case of decentralization, however, the Organization's present financial constraints strictly limit the contribution which FAO can make to such endeavours.

Harmonization of rules and procedures

7.17 Resolution 47/199 identified specific action in the area of simplification, harmonization, and the adoption of rules and procedures for operational activities. While many of these aspects apply mainly to the UN funds and programmes, FAO has taken several significant steps in this direction including the standardization, as appropriate, of its Trust Fund project documents in line with the format followed by UNDP, and the proposal to develop a new system of support costs payments for Trust Funded activities based, in significant part, on the methodology now utilized in respect of UNDP-funded activities.

8. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8.1 A large number of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, at its Forty-eighth Session, are of interest to FAO. Many of these resolutions are covered in the thematic presentations of this document, such as those relating to UNCED, drug abuse control, humanitarian assistance, and poverty alleviation. Several others are briefly highlighted below.

Agendas for peace and development

8.2 Over the past year the UN's role in helping to establish international peace and security, particularly its peace-keeping role, has received increased attention, becoming more extensive and more costly than has been the case previously. Meetings of the Security Council have increased dramatically and the Council's membership has been a topic of informal discussion.

8.3 In the statement adopted at the first meeting of the Security Council held at the level of Heads of State and Government, the Secretary-General was invited to prepare for circulation to Members of the UN an "analysis and recommendations on ways of strengthening and making more efficient within the framework and provisions of the Charter the capacity of the UN for preventive diplomacy, for peacemaking and peace-keeping". In response to the request of the Summit Meeting of the Security Council, the Secretary-General produced a document entitled "An Agenda for Peace" which outlined his views.

8.4 In its resolution 47/120 entitled "An Agenda for Peace: preventive diplomacy and related matters", the General Assembly emphasized that international peace and security must be seen in an integrated manner and that the efforts of the Organization to build peace, justice, stability and security must encompass not only military matters, but also relevant political, economic, social, humanitarian, environmental and developmental aspects. Recognizing the need to complement "An Agenda for Peace" with "An Agenda for Development", the Assembly expressed its views on the peaceful settlement of disputes; early warning, collection of information and analysis; fact-finding; confidence-building measures; humanitarian assistance; resources and logistical aspects of preventive diplomacy and the role of the General Assembly in preventive diplomacy.

8.5 The Assembly encouraged the Secretary-General to set up, in close cooperation with Member States and UN agencies, as well as regional arrangements and organizations, an adequate early-warning mechanism for situations likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security and invited him to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat for the collection and analysis

of information to better serve the early-warning needs of the Organization. The Assembly also stressed the need to encourage Member States, and regional arrangements and organizations to play a leading role in developing confidence-building measures appropriate to the region concerned and to coordinate their efforts in this regard with the UN.

8.6 The Secretary-General was asked to continue to strengthen the capacity of the Organization to ensure coordinated planning and execution of humanitarian assistance programmes. He was also encouraged to continue to address the question of coordination between humanitarian assistance programmes and peace-keeping or related operations, preserving the non-political, neutral and impartial character of humanitarian action.

8.7 The Assembly invited Member States to provide political and practical support to the Secretary-General's efforts to achieve peaceful settlement of disputes, including early warning, fact-finding, good offices and mediation. It also invited them to provide the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, with any necessary additional expertise and logistical resources that he might require for the successful execution of these functions. The Assembly decided to continue early in 1993 its examination of the other recommendations contained in "An Agenda for Peace".

8.8 General Assembly resolution 47/71 entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects" refers extensively to "An Agenda for Peace" in its preambular and operative paragraphs. This resolution addresses resources, finances, organization and effectiveness, and development of peace-keeping. The Assembly, by this resolution, requested the Secretary-General to promote the establishment, on a voluntary basis, of a pool of resources - including military units, military observers, civil police, key staff personnel and humanitarian material - that might be made available to UN peace-keeping operations, subject to national approval. The Assembly encouraged consideration in the appropriate fora of the establishment of a reserve fund or other appropriate arrangement to improve the start-up financing of peace-keeping operations. It emphasized the importance of making a clear distinction between peace-keeping operations and other assistance from specialized agencies and departments of the UN which are not an integral part of such operations.

8.9 The Assembly recognized the need to increase the strength and capability of military staff serving in the Secretariat and of civilian staff dealing more generally with peace-keeping matters within the Secretariat and requested the Secretary-General to consider the establishment in the Secretariat of an enhanced peace-keeping planning staff and an operations centre.

8.10 The Assembly believed that the closest attention needs to be paid to the issue of applying the preventive potential of the UN more broadly, and suggested that consideration be given over the next few years to the elaboration of a universally acceptable text for a declaration on UN peace-keeping operations. In its resolution 47/71, the General Assembly took note of the establishment of an informal working group on "An Agenda for Peace".

8.11 Following Agenda 21 and "An Agenda for Peace" the General Assembly, by its resolution 47/181 entitled "An agenda for development", requested the Secretary-General to submit to its Forty-eighth Session a report on an agenda for development. The report should contain a analysis and recommendations on ways of enhancing the role of the UN and the relationship between the UN and the Bretton Woods institutions in the promotion of international cooperation for development and should include a comprehensive annotated list of substantive themes and areas to be addressed by the UN in the agenda, as well as the Secretary-General's views on priorities among these.

8.12 With regard to the Security Council, the General Assembly, by its resolution 47/62 entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council",

requested the Secretary-General to invite Member States to submit written comments on a possible review of the membership of the Security Council and to submit to its forty-eighth session a report containing the comments of Member States on the subject.

Food and agriculture

8.13 Matters relating to food and agriculture are considered by the General Assembly and ECOSOC in alternate years. In 1992, at its Forty-seventh Session, the Assembly adopted resolution 47/149 entitled "Food and agricultural development", in which it called upon the international community to consider food and agricultural issues in a comprehensive and multidimensional manner and to support scientific and technological research and training as well as capacity-building in developing countries in order to promote sustainable agricultural development. It urged all countries, in particular developed countries, to strengthen their efforts to work towards a more equitable international environment, in particular a fairer, more open and viable international agricultural trading system, and in this connection stressed the urgent need for a balanced and successful outcome of the Uruguay Round.

8.14 The General Assembly encouraged all relevant organizations of the UN system dealing with food and agriculture, as well as regional and subregional financial institutions, to improve their cooperation and coordination in the field of food and agricultural development. It requested the UN development system to continue its support in providing technical cooperation for agricultural and rural development and emphasized the urgency of strengthening international cooperation in the transfer of environmentally sound agricultural technology. Also, it stressed the importance of finance for investment in the agricultural sector.

8.15 The Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with relevant organizations of the UN system, to submit to its Forty-ninth Session a report on food production, including agro-industrial products, international markets for agricultural and tropical products, and the state of global food security, taking into particular account the needs of all developing countries, including net food-importing countries. In view of the foreseen contents of this report, it is expected that FAO will play a key role in its preparation.

8.16 In another resolution, numbered 47/150 and entitled "Strengthening the United Nations response to world food and hunger problems", the General Assembly left it to its resumed Forty-seventh Session to address the issue of the role of the World Food Council. Stressing the need for a more effective and well-coordinated UN response to world food and hunger problems, underscoring the increasing importance of intergovernmental policy guidance in this field, and "noting with concern that the World Food Council, by its own acknowledgement, has not been able to achieve political leadership and coordination to the extent expected by its founders", the Assembly "underlined the need to consider the role of the World Food Council, and how its mandate and functions might best be carried out within the wider context of the overall restructuring of the social and economic activities of the UN system". The Assembly invited the World Food Council to continue its attempts to agree on appropriate measures to be taken and to communicate any agreed conclusion to the General Assembly.

9. TRADE AND COMMODITY ISSUES

Trade and commodity problems

9.1 The main developments in trade and commodities, reported to the Council in November 1992, are to be pursued further by the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) at its fifty-ninth session

(7-11 June 1993). These include developments in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and in the Common Fund for Commodities. Also, in the past year, issues arising from the links between international trade and environmental policies have received increased attention in the UN system. These issues are also to be addressed by the CCP, following the request of the FAO Conference in November 1991.

Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations

9.2 In the Uruguay Round, negotiations have continued, including in the agriculture area, but were not yet concluded by March 1993. However, a potentially important breakthrough was made in November 1992 when the EC and the United States agreed on a number of crucial agriculture issues. Their agreement, which was transmitted to the GATT in late November, included a reduction in support and protection, mainly from their 1986-88 levels. The main features of the agreement are:

- outlays on export subsidies would be cut by 36 percent and a 21 percent cut in the volume of subsidized exports over six years starting in 1994;
- order protection measures would be converted to tariffs and reduced by 36 percent over six years;
- safeguards against import price declines would be allowed;
- a minimum of access would be facilitated by a tariff quota rising to five percent of consumption at the end of six years and support measures applied internally would be cut by 20 percent but with credit given for cuts in support made since 1986 and excluding certain aids paid directly to farmers as part of the recent reform of the EC's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

9.3 In addition the United States and the EC agreed to consult if imports of non-grain feed ingredients into the EC rose to an extent that undermined the implementation of CAP reform. They also agreed to a "peace clause" which would exempt internal support measures and export subsidies from action under Article XVI (subsidies) of the GATT.

9.4 However, despite significant movement in the agriculture negotiations, the multilateral trade negotiations were still not concluded by end March 1993, reflecting lack of agreement in several negotiating areas.

Environmental measures and international trade

9.5 The GATT Group on Environmental Measures and International Trade which started its work at the end of 1991 mainly examined three topics: The GATT and Trade Provisions of Multilateral Environmental Agreements; Transparency of National Environmental Regulations; and Packaging and Labelling Requirements.

9.6 Regarding the GATT and Trade Provisions of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the Group considered what guidance could be provided by the principles of international public law when considering the relationship between trade provisions of multilateral environmental agreements and GATT provisions. The Group also discussed the key characteristics of an international agreement including the number of countries participating in the negotiation of the agreement, the number of signatories to it, how representative those countries were in terms of their various stages of development and their geographical diversity, and whether membership would subsequently be open or restricted. Mention has been made also of how a regional agreement might be viewed in this

context. Related to these issues were the important questions of the extra-jurisdictional application of trade measures in the context of dealing with global environmental concerns and the treatment of non-parties by trade provisions contained in a multilateral environmental agreement. The relevance of considering the reasons why a party might choose not to accede to a multilateral environmental agreement had also been mentioned in this regard.

9.7 On the second topic, the Group conducted a review of the scope and adequacy of the "transparency provisions" of the GATT and of prospective Uruguay Round agreements in the light of national environmental regulations that are likely to have trade effects.

9.8 Finally, the Group approached the subject of possible trade effects of packaging and labelling requirements by preparing for a generic examination of the trade effects of mainly new forms of packaging and labelling requirements aimed at protecting the environment, which have been of growing importance in recent years.

Common Fund for Commodities

9.9 As reported to the Council at its 102nd Session, it has been apparent since the commencement of its operations that the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) has limited resources at its disposal for Second Account operations. While this meant that the Fund's resource status would, at least initially, result in a prudent project approval and financial disbursement policy, it was also expected that contributions would be raised as time progressed. By March 1993, of the originally authorized capital of US\$ 470 million for the First and Second Accounts, the paid-in capital at the disposal of the CFC for Second Account operations stood at approximately US\$59 million. By then the Fund had approved six projects for financing (two for jute, two for rubber, one for cotton and one for olive oil) at a total cost of less than US\$7 million. However, only US\$4.2 million were committed by the Common Fund, the balance was accounted for largely by contributions in kind and some co-financing. During 1992 the CFC received more than sixty project proposals and ideas from its twenty-one designated International Commodity Bodies (ICBs). After preliminary examination, the Fund's Secretariat believed that about half of them would receive further consideration by the Consultative Committee and that several projects should be approved in 1993.

9.10 Given that nine of the twenty-one ICBs designated are under FAO's aegis, it could be assumed that FAO would become the major partner of the Common Fund. Of the twenty or so redimensioned projects and proposals submitted by FAO commodity groups designated as ICBs, only three had been approved by the Consultative Committee for submission to the Executive Board and only one, on coir, had been approved by the Board by end-March 1993. At the same time, the project packages originally prepared have undergone a severe process of attrition, and drastic cuts had to be made in the number of projects and the amount of funding requested for them.