

SS.V/2. Revitalization, reform and strengthening of the
United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling the results and decisions of the nineteenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly, convened for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, 7/ and, in particular, paragraphs 119 and 122-124 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, 8/

7/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.1.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

8/ General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex.

Also recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, 5/ adopted by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session,

Concerned at the continuing trends of deterioration in the state of the global environment,

Aware of the ongoing processes of globalization and liberalization that have serious implications for the global environment, as well as the growing complexity and fragmentation of institutional responses to environmental problems,

Recognizing that a strong environmental voice is an essential requirement for sustainable development,

Convinced of the urgent need for a strong, effective and revitalized United Nations Environment Programme to underpin the efforts of the international community to arrest and to reverse the deterioration of the global environment,

Emphasizing that the United Nations Environment Programme has been and must continue to be the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment and that its role is to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Taking note of the report of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials at its second session, 9/

1. Affirms that the future reform of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of United Nations reform should be predicated on the following considerations:

(a) The future activities and organizational structure of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme should be fully in line with the mandate contained in the Nairobi Declaration;

(b) Reform should aim at the further enhancement of the role of United Nations Environment Programme as the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment;

(c) The further organizational reform of the United Nations Environment Programme, based on the proposals of the Executive Director, must ensure a more rational, efficient and cost-effective functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme as a whole;

2. Welcomes the proposals of the Executive Director, in keeping with the spirit of the Nairobi Declaration for areas of concentration of the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme, namely:

(a) Environmental information, assessment and research, including environmental emergency response capacity and strengthening of the early warning and assessment functions of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(b) Enhanced coordination of environmental conventions and development of environmental policy instruments;

(c) Freshwater;

(d) Technology transfer and industry;

(e) Support to Africa;

as well as other priority areas of the United Nations Environment Programme, as established by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session;

3. Requests the Executive Director to re-examine the 1998-1999 programme of work approved by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session 6/ in the light of the core elements of the focused mandate of the Nairobi Declaration, and the proposed areas of concentration, with due regard to the needs of environmental education, within the existing programme of work; and to develop further his new proposals in this regard in the context of the programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001, and to make recommendations thereon to the Governing Council at its twentieth session;

4. Welcomes the intention of the Executive Director to realize the "environmental dividend" from the streamlining and rationalization of the administrative arrangements for the United Nations Environment Programme, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation and gender balance, as well as the interests of developing countries;

5. Underscores the paramount importance of adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme and calls again upon all Governments to contribute according to their financial capabilities;

6. Decides to review, at its twentieth session, the status of the ongoing reform of the United Nations Environment Programme, and to provide to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session - the Millennium Assembly - its policy conclusions on institutional arrangements within the United Nations system for dealing with the environmental challenges of the next century and the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in that context.

7th meeting
22 May 1993