

The papers were presented at sessions entitled: Environmental Strategies at National, International, and Regional Levels; Environmental Education at Pre-school, School, and University Stages; Role of Adult Education; Environmental Programmes for Policy Makers and Administrators; Case-studies on Environmental Issues; Curriculum; Pedagogic Methods and Value Orientation; and Action Plans.

The recommendations of the two working groups, on 'Cooperation Plans and Programmes' and 'Population Related to Environmental Education', respectively, besides those made by the working sessions, are relevant to diverse problems and policies of the Government and other institutions.

Finally, the Delhi Declaration on Environmental Education takes into account the current state of such education and the needs of developing countries—in the global context of economic development compatible with the health of The Biosphere—with exhortation to tree-planting, soil and water conservation, establishment of natural parks, and restoration of disrupted ecosystems, in observance of the International Youth Year 1985.

The achievements of the Conference may be summarized as in-depth awareness and ecological perception of the environment for the participants, and enthusing institutions to make greater efforts in structuring their educational programmes. The Delhi Declaration and announcement of the Indian Environmental Congress Association, besides the formation of a parliamentary lobby of 95 MPs under the leadership of Shri Digvijay Singh, were other landmarks of the Conference.

The success of the International Conference on Environmental Education was due mainly to the sustained interest and efforts of three persons: Dr M. S. Swaminathan (who provided the leadership), Dr Desh Bandhu, and Dr N. L. Ramanathan.

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#### MEETING OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ON REGIONAL MARINE PROGRAMMES, HELD IN NAIROBI, KENYA, DURING 18–21 JANUARY 1982

This Meeting of Government Experts was convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in accordance with decision 8/13A of the Eighth Session of the UNEP Governing Council that: 'bearing in mind that considerable experience has been accumulated... in the subject area of regional seas which may contribute to the understanding of the global problems of marine pollution', and 'recognizing the significance of the work... which is being carried out by several international and intergovernmental organizations, and the need for closer coordination of these activities', requested the Executive Director to convene 'in cooperation with relevant international and intergovernmental organizations, a government group to review the activities, the achievements, and the planned development, of the regional seas programme and of other comparable programmes sponsored by other bodies'. Twenty-seven experts from fifteen States participated in the meeting, which was also at-

tended by representatives from eighteen United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.

After reviewing the progress achieved and the proposed continuing activities of regional programmes covering the North Sea—North Atlantic, Baltic Sea, Mediterranean, Kuwait Action Plan Region, West and Central Africa, Wider Caribbean, East Asian Seas, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, Southeast Pacific, Southwest Pacific, East Africa, Southwest Atlantic, Southern Oceans, and Indian Ocean, as well as activities developed within the framework of global assessment and management programmes concerning the marine and coastal environment, the experts considered the contributions which regional programmes may make to the understanding of global problems of marine pollution. The experts also discussed co-ordination between organizations concerned with the protection and development of the coastal and marine environment.

The Meeting reconfirmed the basic premise of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme, namely that regional programmes are an effective way to protect and develop the marine environment—including coastal areas—and to provide a sound basis for global action. More specifically, the experts supported the view that the application of environmentally-sound management practices in coastal and maritime activities is the key to safeguarding the marine environment, and that regional programmes provide an important 'middle step' between global principles of management and the national or more local, practical implementation of those principles.

Looking to the future elaboration of regional programmes, the meeting recommended, *inter alia*, that:\*

—An approach should be adopted which consists of evaluating, and trying to resolve on a regional basis, the environmental problems generated by the use of marine and coastal resources, since, in so far as regional cooperation exists among States, it provides an effective means of achieving global management of the marine and coastal environment... (Recommendation No. 1).

—The network of regional action plans (including the development of related regional agreements) should be extended so as to include, as appropriate, enclosed or semi-enclosed seas as well as marine and coastal areas of regions with well-defined common problems... (Recommendation No. 2).

—For regions where no regional action plan or regional agreement exists at present, UNEP should consider, in accordance with its central catalytic role, initiating the establishment of regional programmes. (Recommendation No. 3.)

—All international and regional efforts for the protection, management, and development, of the marine and coastal environment, should be based on the full mobilization of the national capabilities of States involved to control marine pollution at its sources, and to develop marine and coastal resources rationally... (Recommendation No. 6).

—Particular attention should be given to the need for continued provision of scientific and technical assistance in regions involving developing countries... (Recommendation No. 8).

—UNEP, as the focal point for environmental action and coordination within the United Nations system, should provide a framework for consultations and cooperation among States and the various organizations with regard to their efforts to protect and manage the marine and coastal environ-

\*For the complete text of the recommendations, see Report of the Meeting of Government Experts on Regional Marine Programmes, UNEP/WG.63/4, Annex II, 29 January 1982, available from the undersigned.

ment. UNEP should also provide a framework for an exchange of information and a sharing of experiences between regions. (Recommendation No. 9.)

—...In implementing such cooperation, due account should be taken of the respective mandates and programmes of competent international and intergovernmental organizations. (Recommendation No. 10.)

—The ways and means of coordination and cooperation should be directed towards measures (such as intercalibration) which will, in due course, promote the synthesis of regional activities into a global picture... (Recommendation No. 11).

The recommendations of the meeting of experts are to be presented by the Executive Director of UNEP to the tenth session of the Governing Council in May 1982, and should assist the Council in its deliberations on the future orientation and strategy to be followed in the further development of the Regional Seas Programme.

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UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL 'SESSION OF A SPECIAL CHARACTER', HELD IN THE KENYATTA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, NAIROBI, KENYA, DURING  
10–18 MAY 1982

This major event was well-planned by UNEP to mark the tenth anniversary of their establishment following the UN Conference on the Human Environment, which took place in Stockholm in 1972 and came out with an Action Plan for the Human Environment. As explained at the outset by UNEP's splendid Executive Director, Dr Mostafa Tolba, the main objectives were to review the major achievements in the implementation of the Action Plan and so 'rekindle the spirit of Stockholm', to assess the recent past in terms of both successes and failures, and to plan for the future—using others' as well as their own experiences in so doing (see also Dr Tolba's Guest Editorial which, in the form of an interview given to our correspondent Robert Lamb, opened our preceding issue, and excerpts from his introductory statement published on pp. 113–4 of this issue). For these purposes were assembled an impressive array of leading talent, including heads-of-state and senior ministers, as well as delegates from 105 nations. These embraced most of the 58 countries composing the (rotating) membership of the UNEP Governing Council, which was to start its tenth session two days after the termination of this special one. Other UN agencies and intergovernmental concerns were also represented, as were a large number and range of international nongovernmental organizations, the total attendance being estimated at around 3,000 individuals.

The opening ceremony was performed by the President of Kenya, H.E. the Hon. Daniel T. arap Moi, whose rousing address included references to 'strong pressures on the resources and functions of The Biosphere', how 'Man's concern with the environment will never end', yet 'when financial or other resources are scarce, environmental programmes are the first to be trimmed or set aside', continuing with expressions of disappointment at 'the failure of the international community to deal

decisively with widespread poverty in the so-called developing world', comments on the frequently 'undue delay in translating theories or studies into concrete programmes of action', how 'the world now faces what has been described, quite rightly in my mind, as population explosion in many parts of the developing world... the fact that rapidly increasing populations generated environmental hazards can be clearly seen', how 'The issue before us today—the issue which this special meeting should acknowledge—is not that of human well-being but of human survival', as 'There is no doubt whatsoever that continuation of the current trends will lead to total collapse', and how 'at the time of Stockholm... There developed a fruitful anxiety about pressures on resources and systems of The Biosphere through which life is perpetuated'.

We have quoted the President of the Host Country's above remarks in some detail not only because they are pungently apposite to our world today but also for their courage in coming from an African leader. Moreover they cover most of the main concerns of this Session of a Special Character, which dealt with such matters and some others through several Plenary Meetings that consisted largely of statements, limited to 15 minutes each, by heads of delegations as to their country's or organization's assessment of their situations environmentally—commonly with recommendations etc. to UNEP and the world community. Almost everyone that we heard congratulated the Session's President, Kenya's Minister of Environmental Resources Peter Oloo-Aringo, on his election and affirmed strong continuing support for UNEP—both points being well taken but time-wasting when multiply repeated.

There were also in contemporaneous operation an important 'open-ended Committee of The Whole, to draft' resolutions on decisions especially on the various items that were being considered in the Plenary meetings, and an 'open-ended working group to formulate a draft declaration for adoption by the Session in plenary'. The Committee of The Whole was under the able chairmanship of Dr Martin W. Holdgate (who, incidentally, had been primarily responsible for the main survey paper 'World Environmental Trends Between 1972 and 82' in our latest issue), and came out with a wide array of recommendations to the Governing Council for action especially in the coming decade. Less weighty was the NGO statement, which we have been prevailed on to publish—in small print on pages 121–4—despite the unpopularity of our own attempts to get into it due reference to the need for global education about The Biosphere. In the end the statement was read out in Spanish by the Executive Officer of the Environment Liaison Centre, to a plenary session with perhaps 150 NGO representatives standing in a mass—but in a different part of the vast hall, so that we were asked afterwards what they were doing there. With a modicum of stage-managing the effect would have been impressive—as indeed were the performances of some individual INGOs.

A few other ancillaries or outcomes of the Session of a Special Character should be mentioned. Special messages were read out at the opening meeting or soon thereafter—including ones from the UN Secretary-General (who was prevented from attending by the world situation), the King of the Belgians, the King of Sweden, and Mrs Indira Gandhi, while early sessions were addressed by President Mobutu of Zaire, Prince Claus of