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# /linkages/journal/



## **/topic/**

Our feature article, demonstrating how a cross-cutting issue has been discussed in various negotiations. This month, "Trade and Environment"



## **/updates/**

Summaries of recent meetings



## **/upcoming/**

Information on events to be held in the coming months



## **/readings/**

Abstracts of essential readings for the informed environment and development decision maker



## **/masthead/**

Who we are, why we do this and how to contact us



## **/calendar/**

Selected sustainable development meetings



## TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The linkages between international trade and environmental protection know no borders. The issues involved cut across the traditional boundaries between government, business and academia, and can at once challenge many deeply held values on economics, ecology, sovereignty and social tradition. However, past dialogues have often been confined to separate institutional spheres, and operated as competing rather than complementary goals. Currently three different fora—the WTO Committee on Trade and the Environment (CTE), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Intergovernmental Panel of Forests (IPF)—are discussing similar trade and environment issues from different perspectives, and could be poised to begin bridging the institutional gaps. An emerging theme

appears to be a cautious struggle to map out jurisdiction and competence, with delegates asking which decisions on environmentally-related trade measures will fall into the WTO arena, and which come under one or more environmental treaties. The Montreal Protocol, the Basel Convention and CITES have used trade measures as a means to environmental ends and set the stage for wider use by other environmental treaties. The final result has yet to be seen, but the course for future trade and environment policies may soon be charted by the work of these bodies.

The WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) has been a recent topic of discussion for two international bodies, the CTE and the CBD. The CTE, formed under the Marrakech agreement establishing the WTO, is mandated to identify the relationship between trade measures and environmental measures to promote sustainable development, and recommend any needed modifications to the multilateral trading system. At a meeting last June, the CTE discussions focused on a number of intellectual property rights



(IPRs) issues that have arisen in the context of environmental concerns, including the generation and transfer of technology, access to genetic resources, protection of traditional rights and knowledge, patentability of life forms and the compatibility of the TRIPS Agreement with Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) such as the CBD. Many delegations recommended a cautious approach with regard to IPR issues, because there is little experience with implementation of both TRIPS and MEAs containing IPR related provisions. However, the discussions also revealed many deep differences among States' perceptions and expectations regarding TRIPS.

Much of the CTE's discussion on IPRs focused on access to and transfer of environmentally sound technology, and the need to examine possible inconsistencies between WTO and the CBD. Many issues remain unresolved regarding the future interplay between IPRs and technology transfer, such as whether IPRs will frustrate or foster technology transfer, whether technology transfer will happen on concessionary terms, and whether TRIPS could ultimately serve to reduce biodiversity. Many

developed States held that TRIPS did not create an obstacle to environmental protection or the development and transfer of environmentally-sound technology. Many developing countries, however, stressed cooperative implementation and the need to monitor the measurable effect of TRIPS on technology transfer. Colombia, in particular, said access to technologies by developing countries should be facilitated by respecting IPRs under the most favorable terms, including preferential and concessional terms, in keeping with Agenda 21 and CBD.

Some delegations were uncertain that TRIPS provided a satisfactory solution for environmental protection and emphasized that nothing in TRIPS provided for specific mechanisms to achieve sustainable development and environmental protection. Others said that additional rules may be needed to limit the discretionary power of technology owners to restrict access or impose trade restrictions. The most vocal developing countries also proposed an additional committee on these issues, and asked for a review of the TRIPS articles related to pat-



ents, compulsory licensing and anti-competitiveness practices, to confirm whether they were sufficient to strike the balance between the protection of patent holders and users that is needed to promote a wider diffusion of technology.

A number of delegations also expressed concern regarding the prejudicial effects of technology on the environment, particularly the effects of bio-technologies that involved genetically modified organisms whose effects are uncertain. Some delegates also said that TRIPS was extending into areas that were inappropriate for patentability and questioned the patenting of life forms. Members noted that Article 27.3 (b) of TRIPS, which was to be reviewed after four years, states that Members may exclude from patentability. . . plants and animals other than micro-organisms, and obliges Parties to provide for the protection of plant varieties through patents or a *sui generis*, or one of a kind, system. During discussion, it was suggested that the review include a detailed discussion of the implications of this article. Some delegates emphasized the need for clear language

on conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components, and definition and interpretation of the key terms in the provision. Others, however, stated that the WTO discussions should not prejudge the results of the Article 27.3 review or of the CBD's discussions relevant to TRIPS.

The Committee also examined, and disagreed on, the compatibility of TRIPS with the CBD. Some commentators have questioned whether the CBD authorizes signatories to limit IPRs in order to promote technology transfer, which would run counter to the strengthening of IPRs sought by TRIPS. They also question whether preferential access to genetic resources contravenes the WTO's primal most favored nation principle. In this regard, delegates raised a number of important questions, such as which agreement would prevail if a conflict arose between TRIPS and CBD. Some members also noted the possibility under Article 15 of CBD for the country providing access to its genetic resources and the country receiving the access to reach a mutual agreement on participation in subsequent research and acquisition of



resulting technology. These members also suggested that CTE clarify the relationship between preferential access to genetic resources available under CBD and the most favored nation principle. Some delegations asked whether Article 16.5 of CBD, which says that intellectual property right (IPRs) should support rather than stand in the way of the Convention's objectives, authorized Members to limit access to plant resources or restrict IPRs in order to promote technology transfer. India and Venezuela in particular asked whether a country that was the source of genetic resources could implement the CBD by resorting to compulsory licensing, or excluding entirely from IPRs, a crop variety that used genetic resources from its territories.

IPRs, along with access to genetic resources, were among the myriad of topics debated at the Second Conference of the Parties (COP-2) to the CBD, and generated intense debate over the Convention's relationship to the WTO. During the first week, the CBD Secretariat introduced its report on measures relating to IPR and access to and transfer of technology that makes use of genetic

resources. Many developed countries noted the importance of coordinating TRIPS with the CBD and called for case studies, while the G-77 called for the COP to assert the primacy of CBD over relevant GATT law. India called for an interim requirement for patent applications to include source information. Further debate focused on the nature and timing of the interaction between the CBD and WTO Secretariats, particularly the need to inform the WTO Secretariat of the CBD's ongoing work, and to invite it to assist the CBD's efforts to outline the relationship between CBD and TRIPS—both to prepare for discussion of this agenda item in 1996, and prepare COP-3's possible input to the WTO Ministerial Conference in December 1996.

Some developing country scholars have argued that CBD has been important to Southern countries because they anticipated international recognition of their ownership rights in genetic resources and improved access to advanced technologies of the North, especially biotechnology, in exchange for granting access to their genetic resources to Northern enterprises. Other observers have



held that CBD arguably challenges international patent law, which TRIPS and other agreements clearly spell out. At COP-2, some developing country delegates favored a proposed study by the Secretariat on the potential for patent procedures to be used as a means of ensuring the prior informed consent of the country providing the resources. CBD stipulates conditions, in addition to those set out by national legislation, for granting access to natural genetic resources, such as mutually agreed terms, prior informed consent and the right to share in the benefits arising from commercial and other utilization.. Delegates opposed to such a study said that the CBD was not the forum to try to change existing international patent laws. When COP-2's decision did not call for changes, India recorded a statement noting the need for a study of patent procedures as one mechanism for ensuring prior informed consent through inclusion of source of biological materials and knowledge in patent applications.

Further debate at COP-2 also revolved around whether CBD's discussion of IPR relating to indigenous

knowledge should include *sui generis* or other intellectual property rights systems...Some observers have questioned whether patents of some sort should exist to protect intellectual property rights developed by non-scientists outside a laboratory setting. Although many delegates acknowledged this topic's importance, they said it should be addressed under Article 8(j), which calls on Parties to preserve the knowledge of indigenous communities and promote its wider application, and should not be included in the decision. COP-2's decision on IPRs requests the Secretariat to "liaise with the Secretariat of the WTO in order to inform it of the goals and the ongoing work of the CBD, and to invite it to assist in the preparation of a paper for the COP that identifies the synergies and relationship between the objectives of the CBD and the TRIPS Agreement." The text also calls for Secretariat consultations with all stakeholders, particularly the private sector and indigenous and local communities, and for a preliminary study on the impact of IPR systems on the objectives of the CBD, including the relationship between IPR and traditional knowledge and the role of IPR in transfer of biotechnology.



In addition to disagreements over IPRs, eco-labeling and certification have recently reemerged as a topic of trade and environment discussions and also resulted in further developed and developing country disagreement. Many developing countries have said that eco-labeling schemes represent a non-tariff barrier to their goods, or “green protectionism,” motivated as much by political and economic desires as environmental. One past unilateral scheme for timber met with strong criticism in GATT. In 1992, Austria enacted a law calling for labels on imported tropical timber and tropical timber products that would indicate to the consumer that the product was made of tropical timber. An additional voluntary quality mark would indicate that the product came from a sustainably managed forest, but would only be given to the importer upon satisfaction of Austrian management requirements. Many countries, particularly Southeast Asian, challenged the conformity of this law with the GATT, and said it constituted a protectionist policy that erected non-tariff barriers to trade. They argued that the scheme focused solely on tropical timber and excluded

the assessment of sustainable management for temperate forest products. Strong economic pressure and threats to exclude Austrian bidders from public procurement projects led Austria to reconsider and amend its rule to provide for only a voluntary label with no interference from the Austrian government.

At the first meeting of the CSD Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) in September, developing country delegates voiced strong opinions over trade and sustainable management of forests, particularly on certification and labeling. Proposed schemes would attempt to identify products from sustainably managed forests, but many developing countries insisted that this issue exceeded the scope of the CSD. They said any labeling scheme established could only be voluntary and argued for improved market access and fewer trade restrictions. Developing countries also opposed suggestions that the proposed intersessional workshops, many of which would address certification and labeling, should constitute an official part of the IPF process, arguing they could only be corollary and insisting they be open-ended, transparent



and participatory.

CTE's discussions in October on market access concentrated on eco-labeling and subsidies. While supporting the policy objectives of eco-labeling, many delegations nonetheless noted the potential for market access problems. They raised concerns about transparency, unfair burdens and high competitive costs of foreign producers of like products. They also said the current lack of methodologies regarding the specification of environmental criteria could lead to protectionist abuse. Some members suggested that schemes were being promoted in the name of sustainability that were colored by political and economic expediency. Developing country Members also said that a tightened discipline on eco-labeling could diminish a threat to market access because some developing countries do not have the technology or finances to meet strict packaging or labeling requirements. They also emphasized that the special need of developing countries must be taken into account when schemes were being designed and implemented.

These disagreements over TRIPS and eco-labeling provide specific examples of the broader issue that countries can sign agreements in different policy spheres that may conflict. As the countries of the world become more intertwined, economically and environmentally, such conflicts will likely increase. CTE's October meeting included a discussion on the overall relationship between WTO provisions and trade measures taken pursuant to MEAs. Delegates previewed a forthcoming proposal that outlines a number of approaches that could be taken to amend or interpret GATT Article XX to accommodate certain trade measures pursuant to MEAs, while not depriving WTO members of their right to resort to dispute settlement if necessary. Delegates noted that the number of MEAs had increased since UNCED and that current negotiations on several legally-binding environmental instruments were considering the use of trade measures. Several Members stressed the importance of clarification on WTO provisions in this area. In approaching the question of which trade measures used in MEAs might be considered eligible for accommodation under or exemption from WTO rules and obliga-



tions, Members explored the possibility of developing general criteria, including geographic scope of the environmental problem, degree of scientific certainty involved, scientific criteria used to determine policy choices, universality of support for an MEA, and the type of trade measure considered.

In the coming year these international bodies will continue their discussions. According to its agenda, the IPF will now “promote the mutually supportive roles of trade and environment” and consider reports on improving market access for forest products and factors that may distort trade in forest products. IPF will examine the issue of voluntary certification and labeling of forest products, including impacts on developing countries. There are also several intersessional meetings scheduled that address labeling and certification. At its October meeting, CTE delegates agreed to a work programme that will take it through a second consideration of most items on its agenda. Discussions will continue through May 1996 when CTE will conduct another overall review. Observers have commented that several factors

are pushing the CTE toward some type of action, particularly the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference in December 1996. After a year and a half studying the issues (including six months of the pre-WTO preparatory committee), CTE could face growing expectations to produce concrete results. The Third Conference of the Parties to CBD, scheduled for 4-15 November, will also continue discussions on IPRs and the relationship to WTO.

Although discussions are still at an early stage, they could lead to an evolution of trade and environment policy. Many factors play into the process, including the growing economic disparity between developed and developing countries, the differing perceptions and degree of consensus on environmental problems, and the increasing frustration of many developing countries that negotiations under MEAs have not provided a more welcoming forum for traditionally Southern ideas. Some observers predict that the two CTE topics most likely to yield results in 1996, MEAs and eco-labeling, could become politically linked, with OECD countries wanting



a clearly defined relationship between WTO/GATT and trade provisions in environmental agreements. Developing countries, however, may consent to action on MEAs only upon agreement regarding the effects of environmental labeling, packaging and other standards on their access to developed countries' markets. They argue that trade measures in MEAs effectively represent restrictions to market access and therefore should be compensated with concessions in other areas. As a further complexity, many countries do not clearly or consistently fall into developed and developing country camps, but vary on different issues.

Observers from both developed and developing countries, however, have agreed that no one can predict the results of these discussions or clearly define the proper course to take. Thus far, delegates in each fora have engaged in discussions while watching to ensure that their territory is not encroached, and as a result have left observers with more questions than answers. The GATT has been less than eager to yield any trade provisions to environmental concerns in the past, causing

many to assert that the continued progress of MEAs, absent any change in current trade rules, could be seriously jeopardized. Others, however, have commented that the expressions of intent to cooperate between these bodies can only strengthen the future growth and credibility of environmental treaties. Some observers note that GATT's failure to accommodate environmental concerns only reflects the era in which it was written, and that incorporation of such concerns now presents a challenge but not a threat. However, without clear boundaries, other observers wonder if delegates could soon be drawing lines in the sand. While the ultimate outcome is unknown, the discussions underway now could foreshadow the next stage in the critical interplay of trade and the environment.

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*Written by Chad Carpenter with contributions from Aaron Cosby and Steve Wise*



HOME





-  [Commission on Sustainable Development](#)
-  [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change](#)
-  [UN Convention to Combat Desertification](#)
-  [Second UN Conference on Human Settlements \(Habitat II\)](#)
-  [UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks](#)
-  [The UN Convention on Biological Diversity](#)
-  [WTO Committee on Trade and Environment](#)
-  [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#)



Commission on Sustainable Development

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS ON  
UNCED FOLLOW-UP**

The Second Committee of the 50th United Nations General Assembly began its consideration of Agenda Item 96, “Environment and Sustainable Development” on 30 October 1995. A draft resolution on the “Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21” (A/C.2/50/L.23), was first introduced by the Philippines, on behalf of the G-77 and China, on 17 November 1995. During informal consultations, some of the issues that delegates discussed included: how to ensure the participation of major groups in the special session; the contents of the Secretary-General’s report assessing progress achieved since Rio; other contributions to the special session; and funding to

assist developing countries in participating in the special session and its preparatory process.

The revised draft resolution (A/C.2/50/L.78), adopted on 12 December 1995, decides to convene the special session envisaged in resolution 47/190 for a duration of one week during the month of June 1997 at the highest possible level of participation. It encourages participants at the High-Level Segment of the CSD in 1996 to address matters related to the special session and invites the CSD to devote its Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group meeting, to be held in February 1997, to assisting the Commission in undertaking the review for the special session. The 1997 session of the CSD - which will be open-ended to allow for the full participation of all States - will also be devoted to preparations for the special session.

The resolution invites Governments and relevant regional and subregional organizations to consider undertaking reviews of progress achieved since UNCED. It also welcomes the contributions of: hemispheric, regional and subregional conferences on sustainable development; relevant organizations and bodies of



the United Nations system; and the Conferences of the Parties or other regulatory bodies of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as the regulatory bodies of other relevant instruments and the GEF. In recognition of the important role played by major groups, including NGOs, at UNCED and in the implementation of its recommendations, the resolution acknowledges “the need for their active involvement in preparations for the special session as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contribution during the special session.” The resolution also invites Governments to assist the developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the special session and its preparatory process, and invites them to contribute to the Trust Fund to Support the Work of the CSD.

The Secretary-General is requested to prepare a comprehensive report containing an overall assessment of the progress achieved since UNCED in the implementation of Agenda 21 and related outcomes at all levels, as

well as recommendations for future actions and priorities. This report will be considered by the CSD at its 1997 session. Finally, the resolution requests the Secretary-General to mount a public information programme to raise global awareness for both the special session and the work undertaken by the UN in the follow-up to the Conference.

The Second Committee also adopted a number of other resolutions related to UNCED follow-up. These include: the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (A/C.2/50/L.45); implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/C.2/50/L.47); Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/C.2/50/L.69):

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## **WORKSHOP ON POLICY MEASURES FOR CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS:**

The Republic of Korea, in collaboration with Australia, the UN Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organization



for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) hosted an international workshop on Policy Measures for Changing Consumption Patterns in Seoul, from 30 August to 1 September 1995. Sixty representatives of governments, international organizations and major groups participated in the workshop. The workshop focused on policy options and instruments based on case studies of their application in the following policy sectors: end-use energy consumption; use of water resources; waste management; and urban/land use planning.

Among the common themes that emerged are: An appropriate mix of instruments that can include regulatory, social and economic instruments (including subsidy removal and ecological tax reform) are needed in each sector, together with complementary policies; Movement towards proper pricing for the use of natural resources, and removal of subsidies, will assist in the achievement of more sustainable patterns of consumption; Decentralization of responsibilities for sustainable resource management, where appropriate, increases the effectiveness of many policies; Partnerships among government

agencies, private sector firms, voluntary organizations and individual communities should be encouraged; The principle of extended producer responsibility, in the light of life-cycle analysis, could usefully underpin specific policy measures in materials extraction, product design, product information, waste management and energy efficiency programmes; and local, national and global resource distribution patterns must be equitable if they are to be sustainable. For more information, contact Mr. Kenneth Ruffing, Division for Sustainable Development, tel: +1-232-963-4669; fax: +1-212-963-4260; e-mail: [ruffing@un.org](mailto:ruffing@un.org).

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## **CONFERENCES ON FINANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

The World Bank hosted a series of meetings in Washington, DC, on the issue of finance. The first, “Servicing Innovative Financing of Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD),” was held from 2-4 October 1995, in cooperation with the Earth Council. The second meeting, on “Effective Financing of Environmentally Sustainable Development,” was held from 4-6



October 1995. Other related meetings dealt with ethics and spiritual values, accounting for nature, monitoring environmental progress, and sustainability and self-empowerment. More than 1,400 people attended the Conferences, including leaders of governments, NGOs, businesses and international institutions, as well as noted scholars, financiers and social and ethical thinkers. On 5 October, four thematic and four regional roundtables were held on effective financing for ESD. The thematic roundtables examined cross-cutting concerns of environment and health, global ESD programmes, private sector participation, and resource conservation, science and policy. The regional roundtables explored area-specific and global issues linking environment and development, including poverty, the effects of debt, community participation and urban pollution. For more information, contact Ms. Joan Martin Brown at the World Bank, tel: +1-202-473-2310; fax: +1-202-473-3112; e-mail: [jmartinbrown@worldbank.org](mailto:jmartinbrown@worldbank.org).

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## **SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOP ON INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

This workshop, co-sponsored by the German Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, UNEP, the European Commission, the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, and the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), was held in Wuppertal, Germany, from 15-17 November 1995. The workshop built upon a previous SCOPE workshop held in Ghent, Belgium in January 1995. The focus of this workshop shifted from the users' needs to the scientific and academic issues underlying sustainable development indicators. The workshop addressed sustainable development indicators as well as the economic, social, institutional, and environmental systems underlying them. The workshop also examined ongoing and new approaches to aggregation of indicators as well as the issue of data production and availability.

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## **INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

Twenty-eight international law experts participated in this meeting, which was sponsored by DPCSD and was held from 26-28 September 1995 in Geneva. The participants identified a set of basic principles, considered possible classifications and assessed their potential practical implications in a legal text. The expert group focused on the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and other legal instruments that have been negotiated or have entered into force since 1992. For more information, contact Barbara Ruis, DPCSD, tel: +1-212-963-2137; fax: +1-212-963-1267; e-mail: [ruis@un.org](mailto:ruis@un.org)

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## **SEVENTH MEETING OF THE MONTREAL PROCESS GROUP:**

The Working Group on Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests (Montreal Process) held its seventh meeting in Auckland, New Zealand, from 30 October - 4 November 1995. This was the first meeting since the endorsement of the Santiago Declaration and the comprehensive list of criteria and indicators in February 1995. Montreal Process countries underscored the importance of future cooperation among countries on national level implementation of criteria and indicators, particularly among neighboring countries or those with similar forest conditions. In this regard, it was agreed that each country would report on its approach to data requirements, including collection, and its approach to reporting on each indicator at the next meeting of the Montreal Process. Participants also exchanged views on the relationship between national level criteria and indicators and certification. Montreal Process countries



reaffirmed that the criteria and indicators have been developed for the assessment of sustainable forest management at the national level. Australia will host the eighth meeting of the Working Group in June 1996.

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### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE TO ADOPT A GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES:**

Over one hundred countries adopted a Programme of Action aimed at preventing the further degradation of the marine environment at this UNEP-organized Conference, which took place in Washington, DC, from 23 October - 3 November 1995. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities is designed to assist States in taking practical actions to maintain and improve the productive capacity of the marine environment, to ensure the protection of human health and to promote the con-

servation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. With nearly 80% of all marine pollution being caused by various human activities on land, the Global Programme of Action not only identifies the problems and ecosystems under particular threat, but also recommends specific practical action at national, regional and international levels to redress it. Under actions to be taken at the international level, Governments called for specific global measures in two priority areas - the development of a global, legally-binding instrument on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and plans to deal with the inadequate treatment of waste water or sewage. A detailed plan is to be submitted by UNEP early next year outlining the secretariat's structure, the modalities of operation, and how it will coordinate with other agencies, act as the clearing-house and mobilize resources. For more information, contact: Makram Gerges, Acting Director, UNEP Oceans and Coastal Areas, tel: +254-2-62-2015; fax: +254-2-62-2788.

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## CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM:

The DPCSD, EarthKind International and the Earth Pledge Foundation co-sponsored this Conference in the Dominican Republic from 29 November - 2 December 1995. The Conference explored a number of topics, including building sustainable infrastructures; financing mechanisms to encourage sustainable tourism; balancing tourist satisfaction, community involvement and employee concerns; investor rewards and environmental protection; and sustainable tourism initiatives and future orientations. For more information, contact Mr. Deonanan Oodit, SIDS Unit, Division for Sustainable Development, DPCSD; tel: +1-212-963-4671; fax: +1-212-963-4260; e-mail: [oodit@un.org](mailto:oodit@un.org). Information is also available at <http://www.earthpledge.org/>

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## WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, COMPREHENSIVENESS AND CONSISTENCY IN GLOBAL DECISIONS ON OCEANS ISSUES:

This workshop, which was co-hosted by the United Kingdom and Brazil, was held in London from 30 November - 2 December 1995. Delegates from approximately 30 governments, 11 intergovernmental organizations and over 30 NGOs participated. Three panel sessions were held during the workshop. Panel One considered the question of “Scientific and Policy Analysis.” Panel Two considered the question of “Successful Policy Formulation.” Panel Three dealt with “Successful Policy Implementation.” The results of these panels were synthesized into a four-page concluding statement. This statement was the subject of much discussion on the last day. Delegates were asked to submit written amendments that would be incorporated into the final draft.

The draft conclusions focus on several key matters, including: international decision-making on environmental issues should be the result of a holistic approach; international decision-making needs to be based on the



precautionary and other approaches embodied in the Rio Declaration; best available scientific information that takes into account traditional knowledge should be used; and better interaction between science and policy formulations in understanding and regulating the marine environment is an important objective. The draft conclusions also note that there is general agreement on the need for more effective cooperation and coordination between UN agencies and that it is important to find means for expressing the consensus of national governments on the priorities for global action on the marine environment.



*UN Framework Convention on Climate Change*

## 11TH SESSION OF THE IPCC

The eleventh session of the Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change (IPCC) met in Rome from 11-15 December 1995. Some 500 experts from 120 countries attended the meeting to adopt the Second Assessment Report, which was drawn up with the help of 2,000 scientists worldwide. Like its First Assessment Report, which was published in 1990, the IPCC's Second Assessment Report was prepared by three working groups. Working Group I analyzed the functioning of the climate system and potential changes to it resulting from human activities. Working Group II assessed potential impacts of climate change, adaptation strategies, and measures that could be adopted to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Working Group III focused on evaluating the economic implications of climate change.

The draft Second Assessment Report, which highlights a “discernible human influence” on climate, goes beyond the 1990 report when human influence on climate was something that could not really be concluded at all. WMO Secretary-General Godwin Obasi told the delegates at the opening ceremony this conclusion was “a warning to humanity that we have gone beyond the point where the sustainable use of the atmosphere as a highly



mobile dump for man's waste is possible without serious consequences". Based on the findings of the three working groups, the draft report says that the earth's temperature could rise by between one and 3.5 degrees Celsius by the year 2100— an average rate of warming probably higher than any in the last 10,000 years. It says it would expect temperatures to continue rising after that, even if emissions of the greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane that trap heat in the atmosphere were stabilized at that time.

While not all scientists agree on the causes, or even the phenomenon of global warming, most believe the build-up of such gases, to a large part caused by burning fossil fuels, could have drastic consequences. The draft IPCC report came under fire from major oil producing countries, who want no action on cutting emissions until there is scientific certainty. These countries spent much of the week attempting to block adoption of the report. The IPCC report will be published in the following three volumes in early 1996: Volume 1: The Science of Climate Change; Volume 2: Scientific-Technical Analyses of Impacts, Adaptations, and Mitigation of Climate

Change; and Volume 3: Economics and Social Dimensions. When published, they can be ordered from: Cambridge University Press Distribution Center, 110 Midland Ave, Port Chester, NY 10583 USA; tel: +1-800-872-7423 (US); +1-914- 937-9600 (outside US); fax: +1-914-937-4712; World Wide Web: <http://www.cup.org>

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## GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

On 5 December 1995, the Second Committee of the 50th United Nations General Assembly adopted a draft resolution (A/C.2/50/L.33), which had been submitted by Vice Chair Conor Murphy (Ireland) after informal consultations. The resolution endorses the institutional linkage between the Secretariat of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations. The Secretary-General is requested to review the functioning of this institutional linkage no later than 31 December 1999. The resolution notes that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention decided to accept the offer of the Government of Germany to host the Convention Secretariat and expresses its appreciation for the support of the



future host Government for the relocation and effective functioning of the Secretariat.

The resolution also urges Parties to the Convention to pay promptly their 1996 and 1997 contributions to the trust fund for the core budget of the Convention to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the COP, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention Secretariat. The resolution also decides that conference servicing will be provided for twelve weeks of meetings in 1996-1997. The Secretary-General is requested to include in the Calendar of Conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies that the Conference may need to convene in that period. The statement on the financial implications of this resolution is contained in document A/C.2/50/L.49.



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION:

### UN Convention to Combat Desertification

The 50th United Nations General Assembly began its consideration of Agenda Item 96(a), “Environment and Sustainable Development: Implementation of Decisions and Recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,” on Monday, 30 October 1995. In connection with this item, the General Assembly had before it a number of documents, including the report of the Secretary-General on desertification and drought (A/50/347), and a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification (INCD) on its sixth and seventh sessions (A/50/74 and Add.1). Since the debate on desertification and drought was part of the overall debate on UNCED follow-up, not all delegates addressed the Convention in their statements. Those delegates who did address this item expressed their support for the Convention and called for its early ratification and entry into force. Many expressed concern



about the lack of contributions to the special funds.

The Philippines, on behalf of the G-77 and China, introduced the draft resolution on the Convention to Combat Desertification in the Second Committee on 14 November 1995. The final resolution (A/C.2/50/L.54), which emerged from informal consultations, was adopted by the Second Committee on 5 December 1995. One of the more contentious issues in this resolution was the number and duration of future meetings of the INCD. Several countries did not feel it was necessary to specify the dates of the sessions in 1997 and thought it premature to set the dates of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties when there were only 16 ratifications out of the 50 needed for the Convention to enter into force.

The final resolution decides that: the INCD will continue to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and, for this purpose, will have two sessions in 1996, each of up to two weeks' duration, the eighth session to be held in Geneva from 5-16 February and the ninth session in New York from 3-13 September. The resolution also decides to convene the tenth session of the INCD in New York from 6-17 Janu-

ary 1997 and, pending the entry into force of the Convention, to convene as necessary a further session in 1997, of up to two weeks' duration, the exact date and venue of which shall be determined at a later stage. Upon entry into force of the Convention, a session of the Conference of the Parties will be convened in the second and third weeks of June 1997 or, alternatively, in the second and third weeks of August 1997, the exact dates and venue to be determined at a later stage.

The resolution also: requests all countries, the UN system, appropriate scientific and business communities, trade unions, relevant NGOs and other interested groups to take action for the prompt implementation of the Convention and its relevant regional annexes upon entry into force; urges all countries and relevant actors to take actions to implement the resolution on Urgent Action for Africa; decides that the work of the INCD and the Interim Secretariat will continue to be funded through existing UN budgetary resources; and urges States and interested organizations to contribute to the Trust Fund for the Secretariat and the Special Voluntary Fund for the participation of developing countries. The resolution also



welcomes the arrangements concluded between the Interim Secretariat and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to support activities in affected developing countries, and invites the Interim



*Second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)*

## INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**WORLD HABITAT DAY:** World Habitat Day, held on 2 October 1995 in Curitiba, Brazil, highlighted the needs of millions of people who lack adequate housing and basic services. Under the theme, "Our Neighborhood," the meeting focused on the need to build human settlements that are safe, socially stable, healthy and productive at the neighborhood level. For more informa-

tion contact: UNCHS, P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel: +254-2/623352; Fax: +254-2/623266.

**HABITAT II COLLOQUIUM:** The Vancouver Colloquium, which was held from 26-27 October 1995, addressed the theme "Sustaining Cities: Urban Solutions to Global Problems." The meeting was organized by the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and the International Centre for Sustainable Cities. Participants sought to emphasize the contributions that solutions to urban problems can make to environmental sustainability, social balance and governability in the world. Leading practitioners and analysts shared their experiences and ideas and suggested proposals on the contributions that city-regions can make. For example, cities can help limit the negative impact of carbon dioxide gases and preserve green space, clean air and water in the local and global environment. Cities can also contribute policy solutions to the significant social dislocations caused by urban poverty, homelessness, crime or limited employment, and on the sense of community and citizenship implied by adequate and accepted governing forms. A book on the proceedings will be published in time for



Habitat II PrepCom III in New York. For more information, contact: Mr. Peter Oberlander, tel: +1-604-224-3967; fax: +1-604-224-7347.

**MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES:** Ministers, vice-ministers and high ranking authorities in charge of housing and urban development from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean met in Santiago, Chile, from 13-17 November 1995, and approved a Regional Plan of Action for Human Settlements. The Plan is intended both as an aid to regional governments in bringing their housing and urban development policies up to date and as the region's contribution to the World Plan of Action to be agreed to at Habitat II. Its main objective is to achieve authentic development strategies that can ensure social equity, economic growth, environmental sustainability and the realization of human potential within a democratic framework. The Regional Plan of Action consists of five thematic areas: achieving social equity and alleviating urban poverty; the productivity of human settlements for improving the quality of life; improving the environment in human settlements; governability and participation;

and policy and management efficiency. For more information, contact: Mr. P. Jensen, ECLAC, tel: +56-2-210-2308; fax: +56-2-208-0252.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BEST PRACTICES IN IMPROVING THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT:** More than 700 participants attended the International Conference on Best Practices in Improving Living Environments, held from 19-22 November 1995, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Participants reviewed new and innovative ways to solve such urban problems as the lack of adequate low-income housing, waste disposal, and air and water pollution. Organized by UNCHS (Habitat), in collaboration with the Municipality of Dubai, the conference's main objective was to share expertise on a global basis with government ministers, mayors, academics and community leaders by analyzing 25 "best urban practices" from around the world. Some examples of best practices highlighted at the Conference Secretariat to conclude similar arrangements with other relevant organizations, such as UNDP, UNEP, FAO and UNESCO.



included: Curitiba, Brazil; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; and the Ile de France region of France, which consists of Paris and its suburbs. For more information, contact: Ms. Rasna Warah, Information Officer, UNCHS, Fax: +254-2-62-3080; e-mail: habitat2@unep.no.

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## GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

A draft resolution on the “United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)” (A/C.2/50/L.27) was first introduced in the Second Committee by the Philippines, on behalf of the G-77 and China, and Turkey on 22 November 1995. During informal consultations, one of the issues that arose was the dates of PrepCom III. In the draft resolution, the G-77 proposed changing the dates of the PrepCom to 26 February - 8 March 1996, in deference to requests by Islamic countries who did not want the PrepCom to meet during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. However, a statement on the financial implications of this resolution (A/C.2/50/L.44) noted that neither facilities nor services are available at UN Headquarters at

this time. Under these circumstances, delegates agreed to maintain the original proposed dates for PrepCom III - 5-16 February 1996.

The final resolution (A/C.2/50/L.57), which was adopted by the Second Committee on 5 December 1995, endorses the report of the PrepCom on its second session. In addition to deciding that the third session of the PrepCom will be held in New York from 5-16 February 1996, the resolution requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary provisions, within existing resources, so that the PrepCom may, if it so decides, establish two working groups to meet in addition to plenary meetings for the duration of the third session. The resolution also: reaffirms that the Conference should be held at the highest possible level of participation; expresses sincere appreciation to those States and organizations that have made or pledged financial or other contributions in support of the preparatory activities for the Conference; requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue to make every effort to raise extrabudgetary resources for Conference activities and preparations; renews its appeal to all Governments to make contribu-



tions to the voluntary fund; and encourages all relevant NGOs to participate in and contribute to the Conference and its preparatory process.



*UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks*

## **SIGNING CEREMONY IN NEW YORK**

The resumed sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks was convened on 4 December 1995 at UN Headquarters in New York for the signing the Final Act of the Conference and the opening for signature of the Conference's outcome: the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10th December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Strad-

dling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The Agreement was signed by the following 26 countries: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guinea-Bissau, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Marshall Islands, Morocco, New Zealand, Niue, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Senegal, Tonga, Ukraine, the UK (on behalf of ten territories) and the US. The Final Act was signed by the following 45 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, European Community, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Finland, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Marshall Islands, Morocco, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niue, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Senegal, Spain, Tonga, Ukraine, the UK, the US and Uruguay. The Agreement will remain open for signature until 4 December 1996.



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

The General Assembly considered Agenda Item 39, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and Agenda Item 96(c), the sustainable use and conservation of living marine resources on the high seas, on 5 December 1995. Under Agenda Item 39, delegates had before them the Report of the Secretary-General (A/50/713) and a draft resolution regarding UNCLOS (A/50/L.34). Document A/50/713 states that since the entry into force of UNCLOS in November 1994, 13 more States had deposited their instruments of ratification, accession or succession, bringing the total number of States parties to 81. Under Agenda Item 96(c), the delegates considered the reports of the Secretary-General on unauthorized fishing (A/50/549), on the work of the Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (A/50/550), on the implementation of the moratorium on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing (A/50/553), and a report of the FAO on fisheries bycatch and discards (A/50/552), along with a draft resolution concerning the Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and

Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (A/50/L.35) and a draft resolution on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and unauthorized fishing in zones under national jurisdiction (A/50/L.36).

Following the debate, delegates considered the three draft resolutions before the Assembly. Under Agenda Item 96(c), the draft resolution contained in document A/50/L.35 addresses the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10th December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The resolution emphasizes the importance of early entry into force and effective implementation of the Agreement, and calls upon all States and all entities entitled to become parties to sign and ratify or accede to the Agreement and consider applying it provisionally. It requests the Secretary-General to report to the 51st session of the General Assembly on developments relating to the conservation and management of SFS and HMS, and to ensure that reporting on all major fishing activities and instruments is effectively coordinated and duplication of activities



and reporting minimized.

Two other resolutions were also adopted. The first (A/50/L.34) deals with implementation of UNCLOS and was adopted by a vote of 132 in favor to 1 against (Turkey), with 3 abstentions (Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela). Turkey stated its opposition to the draft resolution pertaining to UNCLOS, because it contains no provision recognizing special geographic situations and no reservation clauses. The resolution emphasizes the universal character of UNCLOS and its fundamental importance for the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security, as well as for the sustainable use and development of the seas and oceans and their resources. The resolution calls upon all States that have not done so to become parties to UNCLOS and to harmonize their national legislation with its provisions and ensure its consistent application. It also requests the Secretary-General to convene three meetings of States Parties to UNCLOS during 1996 for the purpose of organizing the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, and to report to the 51st session of the General Assembly on

the implementation of the resolution in connection with the annual report on the Law of the Sea.

The other resolution (A/50/L.36) addresses large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in areas under national jurisdiction, and fisheries bycatch and discards. The resolution recognizes that efforts have been made to reduce bycatch and discards in fishing operations and that further work needs to be done in this area. It expresses concern about the detrimental impact of unauthorized fishing on sustainable development of the world's fisheries resources and on the food security and economies of many States, particularly developing States. It acknowledges the measures taken by the international community to implement and support the objectives of resolution 46/215 on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, but expressed deep concern regarding continuing reports of activities inconsistent with the terms of that resolution. The resolution calls upon States to take measures to ensure that no fishing vessels entitled to fly their national flags fish in areas under national jurisdiction of States unless duly authorized by competent authorities of the coastal State or States concerned.



## FAO CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES

Delegates from 70 countries, various international organizations and NGOs attended the second session of the Technical Committee on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 25-29 September 1995. The Code of Conduct derived its beginnings from instructions of the FAO governing bodies. The Code has been formulated to be consistent with the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. It takes into account: the 1992 Declaration of Cancun; the 1992 Rio Declaration and the provisions of Agenda 21 of UNCED; the conclusions and recommendations of the 1992 FAO Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing; the strategy endorsed by the 1984 FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, and other relevant instruments. The Code also takes into account the outcome of the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Although application of the Code is voluntary, certain parts of it are based on relevant rules of interna-

tional law. In this regard, certain provisions of the Code have been given binding effect by other obligatory legal instruments among Parties, such as the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas. The Flagging Agreement, according to FAO Conference resolution 15/93, forms an integral part of the Code. (HT)



*The UN Convention on Biological Diversity*

## SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES:

The second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-2) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) met in Jakarta, Indonesia from 6 - 17 November 1995. The theme of the session was “Biodiversity for



Equitable Welfare of all People.” If COP-1 established the basic machinery for the Convention’s implementation, COP-2 initiated this process. Some of the key decisions taken by COP-2 include: designation of the permanent location of the Secretariat as Montreal, Canada; agreement to develop a protocol on biosafety; operation of the clearing-house mechanism; adoption of a programme of work funded by a larger budget; designation of the GEF as the continuing interim institutional structure for the financial mechanism; consideration of its first substantive issue, marine and coastal biodiversity; and agreement to address forests and biodiversity, including the development of a statement from the CBD to the Commission on Sustainable Development’s (CSD) Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and promise of possible further input to the IPF.

The Ministerial Segment took place on 15-16 November 1995, during which delegates heard statements from 80 speakers, including 36 ministers. At the conclusion of the second day, the Jakarta Ministerial Declaration (UNEP/CBD/COP/2/L.2/Rev.1) was adopted. The

Declaration was drafted on the basis of discussions and statements submitted during the Ministerial Segment. The Declaration: reaffirms the CBD as a global partnership; notes that COP-2 provides momentum for global agreement on consideration of the need for and modalities of a biosafety protocol; stresses biodiversity education and the importance of the CHM for national implementation; and welcomes the establishment of a Secretariat position on indigenous and local communities issues. The COP declares the global consensus on marine and coastal biodiversity as the “Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity.” Statements from Parties and observers covered a range of topics, including national implementation experiences, positions on issues under discussion by COP-2, and comments on global issues. During closing plenary, COP-2 adopted 18 draft decisions were introduced and adopted, including an acceptance of Argentina’s offer to host COP-3 in Buenos Aires, from 4 to 15 November 1996.



## LOCATION OF THE SECRETARIAT

Delegates to COP-2 designated Montreal as the permanent location of the Secretariat. Voting was conducted in Plenary on Monday, 13 November 1995. According to the agreed scenario, the country receiving the least number of votes withdrew its bid at the end of each of three rounds of voting. After the first ballot, Nairobi withdrew. After the second ballot, Madrid withdrew. Montreal was the choice for location on the third ballot, and the Plenary endorsed the decision by acclamation. A formal decision regarding the location of the Secretariat was adopted during the final Plenary (UNEP/CBD/COP/2/L.5).

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## INTERIM SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE:

The Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific and

Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, held in Kingston, Jamaica from 11 to 13 October 1995 was attended by 26 States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean along with several organizations such as the IUCN, FAO, UNDP and regional NGOs. The meeting resulted in the following: approval of general management guidelines for sea turtles, common guidelines for protected areas, and the regional management plan for the West Indian manatee; endorsement of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Call to Action and Regional Agenda for Action; and recommendations on the development of a SPAW Cooperative Program with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The meeting also provided useful and concrete recommendations to assist with the implementation of the activities of the SPAW Regional Programme for the 1996-97 biennium. For more information contact: RCU, 14-20 Port Royal Street, Kingston, Jamaica; Telephone: 1-809-922-9267, Fax: 1-809-922-9292





WTO Committee on Trade and Environment

**OCTOBER MEETING**

The WTO Committee on Trade and Environment agreed at an October stock-taking to a work programme that will take the committee through a second consideration of most items on its agenda. Discussion will continue through May 1996 when the CTE will conduct another overall review. Delegates and observers say a smaller number of subjects, most likely multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and several issues related to access to markets, may be developed into specific proposals in the next round of negotiations.

Several factors are pushing the CTE toward some type of action, according to observers. Most prominent is the meeting of the WTO Ministerial Conference sched-

uled for Singapore in December 1996. That meeting is expected to consider recommendations or other output from CTE on changes to the multilateral trading system related to environmental issues. Some observers also say that after about a year and a half studying the issues (including six months of the pre-WTO preparatory committee), the Committee faces growing expectations to produce concrete results.

Some observers say the two issues most likely to yield results in 1996, MEAs and access to markets, are politically connected. OECD countries are pushing for a clear definition of the relationship between WTO/GATT and relevant trade provisions. They want to define how MEAs may use trade provisions. Developing countries may consent to action on MEAs only if agreement is also reached regarding the effects of environmental labeling, packaging and other standards on their access to developed countries' markets. They argue that trade measures in MEAs effectively represent restrictions to market access and therefore should be compensated with concessions in other related areas. MEAs are scheduled for discussion 7-8 February 1996. The work programme



identifies two main areas of consideration: ensuring compatibility of trade measures in MEAs and the WTO and adequacy of WTO transparency mechanisms concerning trade measures in relevant MEAs.

Delegates say two basic approaches have been discussed. Some delegations would revise General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Article XX on exceptions, providing an *ex ante* waiver from WTO provisions for any trade measure in an MEA. Other delegations feel that a blanket waiver is too extensive. They suggest that any recommendation from CTE must define factors like what is a legitimate environmental agreement, the scientific certainty of the environmental issue addressed, the openness and extent of membership needed to qualify as multilateral agreement, and whether a trade measure is necessary, least trade restrictive or discriminatory. A second approach would establish guidelines for MEAs that qualify for exemption from WTO provisions and a procedure to grant *ex post* waivers under GATT Article XXV on Joint Action by the Contracting Parties. This approach would require each waiver for a trade provision in an MEA to receive approval from

a two-thirds majority of WTO Parties voting. Some Members suggested that no changes were needed. They say Article XX could be applied to any disputes over trade provisions in MEAs without amendment or additional agreements.

The EU is expected to present a proposal on trade provisions in MEAs during the February meeting, possibly combining guidelines and a waiver. At the CTE October session, according to the WTO report of the meeting, the EU presented several possible approaches. The first would specify MEAs in Article XX and refer to an understanding on the compatibility between the MEA trade measures and WTO rules. This would give preferential treatment to trade measures within MEAs but leave them subject to WTO dispute resolution for WTO Members not parties to the MEA. A second possibility would be to adopt an understanding that the measures in Article XX include those under MEAs, an approach not requiring amendment of GATT. The third would amend Article XX(b) to cover measures necessary to protect the environment and measures taken pursuant to MEAs.

Under access to markets, eco-labeling and subsidies



are the focus of discussions. Developing country Members feel that a tightened discipline on ecolabelling could diminish a threat to market access because some developing countries do not have the technology or finances to meet strict packaging or labelling requirements in consideration by some developed countries. According to the WTO report of the October meeting, the following are among the possible components of an agreement on ecolabelling: stronger obligations on transparency and notification; applying the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) to both mandatory and voluntary labels; approaching eco-labelling schemes based on life-cycle analysis procedures; mutual recognition agreements and the principle of equivalency for environmental standards; and technical assistance for developing countries. These issues are also scheduled for the CTE meeting in February. Canada is expected to present a proposal in this area.

The second major market access issue is subsidies and the effect of environmental measures on access, both scheduled for 13-14 March 1996. They say that although CTE cannot recommend reduction or removal of subsi-

dies, a controversial matter throughout the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations, it could point out the environmental damage from trade distortions caused by subsidies.

Other items on the CTE agenda (and their dates for further consideration) are:

Environmental charges and taxes (7-8 February 1996)

Transparency of trade measures for environmental purposes (7-8 February 1996)

The relationship of dispute settlement mechanisms under WTO and MEAs (13-14 March 1996)

The effect of environmental measures on market access (13-14 March 1996)

Export of domestically prohibited goods (14-15 December 1995)

Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and the environment (17-18 April 1996)

Services and the environment (7-8 February 1996)

The relationship between environmental policies relevant to trade and environmental measures with significant trade effects and the provisions of WTO (21-



22 may 1996)

appropriate arrangements for relations with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) (not scheduled).

The CTE was formed under the Decision on Trade and Environment, part of the 15 April 1994 Marrakesh agreement establishing the World Trade Organization. Its objectives are to identify the relationship between trade measures and environmental measures in order to promote sustainable development, and to make appropriate recommendations on whether modifications of the provisions of the multilateral trading system are required. During the WTO preparatory process from May through November 1994, the Sub-Committee on Trade and Environment chaired by Luiz Felipe Lampreia (Brazil) held five meetings, covering the same agenda agreed for the CTE in 1995. The WTO General Council officially established the CTE in 1995. The CTE met for the first time in February, chaired by Ambassador Juan Carlos Sánchez Arnau (Argentina) and held six meetings in 1995.

Under the GATT, a committee on environment was established in 1971. It met for the first time in 1991 and

in 1992 produced a report:

<http://www.ciesin.org/docs/008-082/008-082.html>

“Trade and the Environment”.

For a full report of the meeting, see

<http://www.unicc.org/wto>



### UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

## **SECOND UNEP ROUNDTABLE MEETING ON BANKING AND THE ENVIRONMENT:**

The Second UNEP Roundtable Meeting on Banking and the Environment was held in London on 30 October 1995 to foster the private sector's involvement in funding sustainable development. Commercial and investment bankers explored ways to move beyond risk management



toward positive investment in environmental goods and services. They stressed the need for standards and methodologies that would assist the financial services industry in assessing the potential economic benefits of an environmental project. Participants urged governments to play a more active role in creating attractive incentives for private investment in cleaner technology. UNEP also confirmed that it will continue to develop and promote the use of innovative incentive mechanism. For more information contact: UNEP (need numbers)

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The ultimate goal was to assist the UNEP and IUCN in serving the public and decision-makers more effectively.

## **UNEP/IUCN REGIONAL STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING WORKSHOP:**

The UNEP and IUCN held the first regional strategic communications planning workshop in Bahrain on 25 October 1995. Experts in environmental information and awareness from nine West Asian countries assessed the communication needs of both organizations. Steps for a regional communications strategy were also identified.



**HOME**





-  **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**
-  **Second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)**
-  **UN Convention to Combat Desertification**
-  **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**
-  **Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)**

-  **Forests**
-  **UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**
-  **UN Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (RAMSAR)**
-  **Trade-Related Events**
-  **Oceans**



UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

## SUBSIDIARY BODIES MEETING

The second meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice will take place in Geneva from 26 February - 1 March 1996.

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## AD HOC GROUP ON THE BERLIN MANDATE

The third meeting of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate will take place from 4-7 March 1996 in Geneva. Delegates will consider: a presentation by IPCC officers on the IPCC's latest findings; a Secretariat compilation of Parties' additional ideas and comments on policies and measures and a second compilation of additional ideas on

possible features of a protocol; a document that follows up on the synthesized list of policies and measures from Annex I Parties' national communications; an informal session on quantified objectives and time-frames and their impacts; a Secretariat paper on the links between FCCC institutions and processes and a future legal instrument; and a Secretariat review of existing relevant conventions. Future sessions of the AGBM are currently scheduled as follows: AGBM 4: 8-19 July 1996, concurrently with COP-2; AGBM 5: 21-25 October 1996; and AGBM 6: 10-14 March 1997. The meetings will be held in Geneva until the Secretariat relocates to Bonn.

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## COP-2

The second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change will take place from 8-19 July 1996 in Geneva.





## Second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

### HABITAT II

The Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3-14 June 1996 - the 20th anniversary of the first Habitat Conference in Vancouver. The Secretary-General of the Conference is Dr. Wally N'Dow.

The objectives for Habitat II are: (1) in the long term, to arrest the deterioration of global human settlements conditions and ultimately create the conditions for achieving improvements in the living environment of all people on a sustainable basis, with special attention to the needs and contributions of women and vulnerable social groups whose quality of life and participation in development have been hampered by exclusion and

inequality, affecting the poor in general; and (2) to adopt a general statement of principles and commitments and formulate a related global plan of action capable of guiding national and international efforts through the first two decades of the next century.

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### PREPCOM III

The third session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat II will be held in New York from 5-16 February 1996. PrepCom Chair Martti Lujanen expects to get down to business without a general debate and spend the entire two weeks negotiating the Statement of Principles and Commitments and the Global Plan of Action, and preparing for the Conference.

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### CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF ARAB CITIES:** Amman, Jordan, 11-14 March,



1996: The Mayor of Amman, the capital city of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan announced that Amman will host a conference for the mayors of the Arab capitals and big cities to be organized in cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Development programme and the Jordan National Preparatory Committee towards Habitat II. The Conference aims at achieving a number of general and specific objectives: to develop programmes and strategies for partnership between private sector investors and local authorities to support investments in sustainable urban development; to broaden the participation of national and international private sector; investors in expanding the coverage of infrastructure in rapidly growing Arab cities and in their mobilization of capital from financial sector sources; to identify throughout the Habitat II process new public-private partnership mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels that can contribute to improve urban finance and mobilization of responsible capital investments in Arab Cities.

The conference specifically seeks to: familiarize Arab Mayors and local authorities with the basic oppor-

tunities and requirements for attracting investors from local, regional and international markets for the development of urban infrastructure and services; acquaint national, regional and international managers, bankers and private sector's representatives with the regulations governing infrastructure investments in Arab cities as well as the opportunities available; assess prevailing constraints on business and investment opportunities in the urban sector and identify suitable reform proposals to remove bottlenecks; help identify options for accessing long term financing for infrastructure and urban projects; identify exchange programmes among Arab States to expand investment opportunities for infrastructure and services in the fast-growing Arab cities of North Africa and the Middle East.

Topics on the Draft Agenda include: the state of Infrastructure in Arab Cities; experience on finance and Management of Urban Infrastructure including the role of the private sector in the development of infrastructure, obstacles preventing the full involvement of the private sector and successful experience from Arab and foreign cities; horizon of Public/Private Partnerships in



Finance and Management of Arab cities; the role of Arab finance institutions, regional and international development and finance agencies in the development of Arab cities; and the institutionalization of inter-city regional cooperation.

A workshop will be conducted in English on the prospects of cooperation between the private and public sectors in the financing and management of Arab cities. A workshop will be conducted in French on bilateral and regional cooperation among the Arab cities and the role of the international and regional financial institutions. A workshop will also be conducted on the role of women towards sustainable development of the Arab cities.

The Conference expects to produce the following outputs: local, national, regional and international partners' commitment to support financing the urban development process and particularly the delivery of infrastructure and services in Arab cities; clarification of "best practices" and institutional framework options for local government so as to enable municipalities to identify key issues that will facilitate private investments in the delivery of infrastructure and services; parameters for a

permanent and reliable Municipal data base on local finance to demonstrate the relationship between having a healthy fiscal base, good management practices and positive flows of direct foreign investments, a regional compendium of "best practices" for attracting infrastructure investors in Arab cities and options for future TCDC activities in this area.

Special Hotel booking rates will be ensured for the conference; and will be communicated as soon as possible. All correspondence is to be routed through the following address: Mr. Ali Shabou, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) for Arab States, P.O.Box - 35286 , Zip Code 11180, Amman Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Tel.(00-962-6) - 668171/7 Fax: (00-962-6) - 676582/668177, e-mail: Shabou@nets.com.jo

**SEMINAR ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS:** This seminar is organized by UNICEF, City University of New York, Children and Environment Program, Berkeley and UNCHS (Habitat). It will take place from 1-2 February 1996 in New York. For more information, contact



Ximena de la Barra, UNICEF, tel: +1-212-702-7246; fax:  
+1-212-702-7148.



### *UN Convention to Combat Desertification*

## **EIGHTH SESSION OF THE INC D**

The next session of the INC D will meet in Geneva scheduled for two weeks from 5-16 February 1996. The provisional agenda includes: adoption of the agenda and organization of work; preparation for the Conference of the Parties; a review of urgent action for Africa and action taken in other regions; status of signature and ratification of the Convention; and review of extrabudgetary funds.

### *UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)*

## **MEETINGS OF STATES PARTIES TO UNCLOS**

The first meeting of the Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea will take place in New York from 4-8 March. Parties will consider and adopt the draft initial budget of the Tribunal. The next meeting of the Parties, which will take place in New York from 29 April - 10 May 1996, will deal with organizational matters of the Tribunal and election of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. The Parties will elect the judges of the Tribunal when they meet in New York from 29 July - 2 August 1996.



## INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

The Assembly will meet in Kingston, Jamaica, from 11-22 March 1996 and again from 5-16 August 1996.



### Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

#### FOURTH SESSION OF THE CSD

The fourth session of the CSD is scheduled to meet from 18 April - 3 May 1996 at UN Headquarters in New York. The proposed schedule is to open the session with a presentation of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, to be followed by a discussion on cross-sectoral issues not dealt with by the ad hoc working

groups (technology transfer, education, capacity building, trade, poverty, population, decision-making, major groups and national reporting). During the week of 22-26 April, the CSD will begin with a presentation of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Finance and Consumption and Production Patterns, followed by a panel and discussion. On Tuesday, there will be a presentation on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Sectoral Issues, followed by a panel and discussion. During the rest of the week, the CSD will examine implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action and exchanges of national experiences on coastal zone management and sustainable development strategies. The drafting groups will begin their work on Thursday and conclude the following Tuesday. The High-Level Segment will take place from Wednesday through Friday, 1-3 May.

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#### AD HOC OPEN-ENDED INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS



At its third session, the CSD agreed to continue the work of the ad hoc open-ended intersessional working group on sectoral issues and finance. The Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Sectoral Issues will focus on the oceans and atmosphere chapters of Agenda 21 and will meet from 26 February - 1 March 1996. The Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Finance and Consumption and Production Patterns will meet from 4-8 March 1996. Both meetings will be at UN Headquarters in New York. For more information, contact Andrey Vasilyev, Division for Sustainable Development, tel: +1-212-963-5949; fax: +1-212-963-4260; e-mail: dpcsd@igc.apc.org.

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## **CSD-RELATED INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS**

**INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS MEETING ON ASSESSMENT OF TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS FOR SUSTAINABILITY:** This meeting, which will be held from 5-7 February 1996 in The Hague, The Netherlands, is jointly organized by the Governments of the Netherlands and Switzerland. For more information,

contact, Ms. Petra Loeff, Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment, The Netherlands, tel: (31-70) 339-4080; fax: (31-70) 339-1304.

**FAO TECHNICAL CONSULTATION OF SOUTH PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES:**

This consultation will be held in Western Samoa from 26-29 March 1996.

**CONFERENCE ON INTEGRATING ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING IN ISLANDS AND SMALL STATES:** This Conference will be held in Malta from 14-16 March 1996.





Forests

**CSD INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON FORESTS**

The second session of the IPF will meet from 11-22 March 1996 in Geneva. Substantive focus will be on Cluster I (items I.2 - causes of deforestation, I.4 - afforestation, reforestation and restoration, and I.5 - needs and requirements of countries with low forest cover); Cluster II - international cooperation in financial assistance and technology transfer; and Cluster III (item III.1 - assessment, scientific knowledge and valuation). There will also be an initial discussion on the rest of the work programme elements. For more information, contact Elizabeth Barsk-Rundquist, tel: +1-212-963-3263; fax: +1-212-963-1795; e-mail: barsk-rundquist@un.org.

**FOREST SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS/EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS**

**CERTIFICATION OF FOREST PRODUCTS AND TRADE:** Germany and Indonesia will host a joint experts' working group meeting regarding trade and labeling of timber and certification of sustainable forest management on 12-16 August 96 in Bonn, Germany. The group will address the impact of certification and labeling on trade, market access and the achievement of sustainable forest management. The group will deal with issues of the IPF Program-Element IV, especially the issue of trade and labeling of timber, the impact of certification on demand and sustainable forest management. The meeting intends to further the international discussion on the issue, produce possible options for credible and practical certification and labeling systems; make recommendations for the work of the IPF. The report of the meeting in English is expected by the end of August 1996.

The hosts will hold a preparatory meeting, with



participants from eight countries and a few international NGOs, in Jakarta, 25-26 January 96, to refine the draft Terms of Reference of the meeting based on discussion papers to be prepared by the participants. The expert meeting may consist of approximately 50-60 participants from 27 countries, international organizations and NGOs. For more information contact: Hagen Frost, Head of Division, Federal Ministry of Economics, D-53123 Bonn/Germany, PH: +49-228-615 3947, FX: +49-228-615 3993; Rainald Roesch, Mission of Germany to the UN, PH: +212-856-6295, FX: +212-856-6280; Dr. Untung Iskandar, Director, Bureau of International Cooperation and Investment, Ministry of Forestry, Manggala Wanabakti Building Block VII, 4th Floor, Jakarta PH: +21-5701114, 5730680, FX: +21-5738732, 5700226; Dr. Benni H. Sormin, Head of Multilateral Cooperation Division, Bureau of International Cooperation and Investment, Ministry of Forestry, Jakarta; Manggala Wanabakti Building Block VII, 4th Floor, PH: +21-5701114, 5730682, FX: +21-5738732, 5700226

**IMPLEMENTING THE FOREST PRINCIPLES:  
PROMOTION OF NATIONAL FOREST AND LAND**

**USE PROGRAMMES** - Germany will sponsor this seminar on 17-21 June 1996. For information, contact the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development; Tel: +49-228 535 3752; Fax: +49-228 535 3755.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL SEMINAR OF EXPERTS ON CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT:** Finland will sponsor this seminar to be held 19-23 August 1996 in Helsinki. For more information, contact the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland; Tel: +358-0-1602405; Fax: +358-0-1602400.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CERTIFICATION OF LABELING OF SUSTAINABLY PRODUCED FOREST PRODUCTS:** Australia will sponsor this conference, which is scheduled for 27-30 May 1996. For more information, contact the Australian Mission to the UN, Tel: +1-212-836-4100; Fax: +1-212-836-4110.

**EXPERT MEETING ON THE WORK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE FOREST**



**SECTOR:** Switzerland and Peru will co-sponsor the work of this group, tentatively scheduled to meet in mid-February or the week of 4 March 1996. For more information, contact either the Swiss Observer Mission to the UN, Tel: +1-212-421-1480; Fax: +1-212-751-2104; or the Mission of Peru to the UN, Tel: +1-212-687-3336; Fax: +1-212-972-6975.

**WORKSHOP ON FINANCIAL MECHANISMS, SOURCES AND COORDINATION IN THE FOREST SECTOR:** Denmark, South Africa and UNDP will sponsor this workshop, scheduled for 27-31 May 1996.

**THIRD EXPERT LEVEL FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE:** The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe will convene this meeting on 30-31 May 1996 in Geneva, Switzerland.

**MONTREAL PROCESS WORKING GROUP ON CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TEMPERATE BOREAL FORESTS:** This meeting will be held in Brisbane, Australia, and it scheduled for June 1996.

/linkages/journal/

/UPCOMING/



INDEX

*UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*

## **THIRD MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

The third meeting of the COP will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 4-15 November 1996, with a Ministerial Segment lasting from 13-14 November 1996.

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## **MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS**

**UNEP GLOBAL EXPERT CONSULTATION ON INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR SAFETY IN BIOTECHNOLOGY:** The meeting, which will finalize the International Technical Guide-



lines, and address related capacity-building needs, will be held in Cairo from 11-14 December 1995.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TECHNOLOGY NEEDS ASSESSMENT:** This conference will focus on assessing technology needs in order to facilitate technology transfer. It is co-sponsored by the Netherlands and Switzerland, and will be held in Scheveningen, the Netherlands, from 6-7 February 1996.

**OECD WORKSHOP ON ECONOMIC INCENTIVES:** An OECD workshop on economic incentives for the conservation of biological diversity will be held in Australia in early 1996.

**FAO GLOBAL SYSTEM FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE:** A series of meetings are planned, including FAO-sponsored regional meetings (West Africa in late November 1995; North America in early December 1995); and a Colombian-sponsored regional meeting for Latin America in February 1996. The Commission on Plant Genetic Resources will meet from 22-26 April 1996 in Rome. This meeting will also serve as the PrepCom for the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant

Genetic Resources, to be held in Leipzig, Germany, from 17-23 June 1996.

**EXPERT MEETING ON INTRODUCTION OF ALIEN SPECIES:** A meeting on this issue, sponsored by Norway in cooperation with UNESCO and IUCN, will include both legal and scientific expertise. This meeting will be held in Trondheim, Norway from 1-5 July 1996.

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN BIODIVERSITY FORUM:** A SADC sub-regional workshop for Southern African countries to prepare for COP-3 will be held in Maputo, Mozambique, in July 1996.

**OPEN ENDED AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON BIOSAFETY:** The working group on biosafety, established by COP-2, will meet in Aarhus, Denmark from 22-26 July 1996.

**SECOND SBSTTA MEETING:** The SBSTTA will hold its second meeting from 2-6 September 1996. The venue has not been determined.

**REGIONAL MEETING FOR LATIN AMERICA ON ECONOMIC VALUATION OF BIODIVERSITY:** The workshop on economic valuation is co-sponsored by



Canada, Chile and UNEP's Mexico office, and will be held in Santiago, Chile in March 1996.

### **IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS:**

The theme of this Congress is "Caring for the Earth." It will be held in Montreal, Canada, from 13-23 October 1996.



*UN Convention on Wetlands of International Importance  
Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (RAMSAR)*

### **MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES**

The COP of the Ramsar Convention, which will meet in Australia in March 1996, will discuss marine and coastal ecosystems.



### *Trade-Related Events*

### **UNCTAD IX**

The ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development will take place in Midrand, South Africa from 26 April - 11 May 1996. The theme of the session is "Promoting growth and sustainable development in a liberalizing and globalizing world economy." Particular focus will be given to policies and actions, required at both national and international levels, to allow developing countries to benefit from the processes of globalization and liberalization of the world economy while ensuring that poorer nations will not be marginalized from the mainstream of the world economy.



## WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION, COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT (CTE)

The CTE will meet for regular sessions from 7-8 February 1996, 13-14 March 1996, 17-18 April 1996, and 21-22 May 1996, in Geneva, Switzerland. The February meeting will consider WTO's relationship with multilateral environmental agreements with trade provisions. The April session will deal with the relationship between TRIPs and other agreements. The May meeting will conduct the CTE's second review in preparation for the WTO ministerial meeting in Singapore in December 1996.

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[/UPCOMING/](#)



### Oceans

## FIRST MEETING OF LEGAL/POLICY/ TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON LAND-BASED SOURCES OF MARINE POLLUTION

The First Meeting of Legal/Policy/Technical Experts on Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution, sponsored by the Caribbean Environment Programme, is tentatively scheduled for February 1996, Bogota, Colombia. For more information contact: RCU. 14-20 Port Royal Street, Kingston, Jamaica; Tel: (1-809) 922-9267; Fax: (1-809) 922-9292.



HOME



## ATMOSPHERE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

*The Ad Hoc Process to Strengthen the Framework Convention on Climate Change.* Ramakrishna, K., Deutz, A., Jacobsen, L., eds. Includes a report of the Conference and a review of the proposals on implementation of the Berlin Mandate. Also includes the following: National Patterns of CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions: Implications for Stabilization by William R. Moomaw and D. Mark Tullis; Carrying Forward the Berlin Mandate: Strengthening Commitments and Implementing Activities Jointly by Jacob Werksman and Farhana Yamin; List of Issues Identified by Parties, Note by the secretariat (FCCC/AGBM/1995/4); Selections from: Implementation of the Berlin Mandate: Comments by Parties (FCCC/AGBM/1995/MISC.1/Add.1).

*The Financial Mechanism of the Framework Convention on Climate Change: Operational Issues.* Abram Chayes and Kilaparti Ramakrishna. Includes a Report of the Conference and the following appendices: Financing the Climate Change Convention through the GEF: Discord or Discourse? Jacob Werksman; Reforming Financing through the Climate Convention by Liz Barratt-Brown and Scott Hajost; Matters Relating to Arrangements for the Financial Mechanism and for Technical and Financial Support to Developing Country Parties: Implementation of Article 11 (Financial Mechanism), Paras. 1-4, Note by the Interim Secretariat (UN Doc. A/AC.237/67); Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, Global Environment Facility; GEF Council: A Proposed Statement of Work; Global Environment Facility (GEF Doc. GEF/C.1/2); Excerpts from Joint Summary of the Chairs: GEF Council, Meeting July 12-13, 1994, Global Environment Facility. Available from: The Program on Science in Public Affairs, The Woods Hole Research Center, P.O. Box 296, 13 Church Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543, USA, Tel: (508) 540-9900 Fax: (508) 540-9700



*Applying the Convention on Biological Diversity to Marine and Coastal Biodiversity: A Handbook for Practitioners.* Dana Clark, Charlotte de Fontaubert, David Downes and Sarah Lynch. This handbook is designed to identify specific ways in which Parties should implement the requirements of the Biodiversity Convention in the context of marine and coastal biodiversity. It outlines an ambitious program of action that reflects the Convention's comprehensive approach, which seeks to link conservation and development in every economic sector that affects biodiversity. The handbook identifies eight general areas of action for implementation and explains the basic policy tools for addressing the problems. It also suggests five general principles that should be applied to each of the actions to improve implementation. Forthcoming from the Center for International Environmental Law, 1621 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC, 20009, USA. Tel: +1202-332-4840; Fax: +1 202-332-4865; e-mail [ciel@igc.apc.org](mailto:ciel@igc.apc.org)

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*The Environment and NAFTA, Understanding and Implementing the New Continental Law.* Pierre Marc Johnson and André Beaulieu. Foreward by Victor Lichtinger, Commission for Environmental Cooperation. Two internationally-known experts discuss both law and policy as they examine the environmental implications of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the related North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC). They consider the context in which those implications were brought to the negotiating table, the legal mechanism established to address them and the original trilateral institution set up to maintain a continent-wide level of environmental cooperation. Topics discussed include: the provision of NAFTA that affect environmental policies and their implementation; the origins of the NAAEC and the legal regime it creates for improving environmental management in North America; preliminary conclusions on the environmental record of NAFTA/NAAEC; suggestions on how to ensure that the new institutions and procedures translate



into concrete environmental gains. Available from Broadview Press, P.O. Box 1243, Peterborough, ON, K9J 7H5. Phone 1-705-743-8990, Fax 1-705-743-8353.

*Trade & the Environment: The Search for Balance*, Volume 1: Essays. Volume 2: Companion documents. James Cameron, Professor Paul Demaret & Damien Geradin, eds. This text and its collection of companion documents (Volume 2 containing all the necessary materials from the EU, GATT, US and NAFTA) covers an area of contemporary conflict of profound significance. The competing systems of trade liberalization and environmental protection are currently connected by disagreement over fundamental principles and objectives. There is little common language. However, since UNCED 1992, the beginnings of a consensus about how these systems could be synthesized is emerging. This collection brings together leading authors, experts and commentators to argue their particular case in this vital debate. Professors John Jackson, Paul Demaret, Richard Stewart, David Pearce, John Usher, Daniel Esty and Ed Barbier, writers from the GATT, the EC Commission,

Greenpeace, the EBRD, WWF, and others have all contributed. These volumes, in total over 1200 pages, cover the general principles and analyze the GATT, the EC and the NAFTA with the detail that should be expected from such authors. Available through Cameron May Publishers at <http://zenon.airtime.co.uk/c-may/>

*Trading with the Environment: ecology, economics, institutions and policy*. Thomas Andersson, Carl Folke and Stefan Nyström. An examination of both the dependence and effects of international trade on the Earth's life support systems, and looks at ways in which trading regulations could be adapted to promote ecologically sustainable economic development. It addresses the issues from a fully integrated approach, focusing on the interrelations between ecosystem, and economic trade and development. The authors provide a carefully constructed ecological and economic analysis of trade and the environment, examine the existing legal institutional frameworks, and set out 16 recommendations to achieve environmentally beneficial trade at both national and international levels. Published by Earthscan, London, 1995



## BIODIVERSITY

*Biodiversity Loss: Economic and Ecological Issues.* Charles Perrings, et al. Reports on key findings from the Biodiversity Programme of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences' Beijer Institute that brought together eminent economists and ecologists to consider a range of problems. The participants hoped to shed new light on the concept of diversity, the implications of biological diversity for the functioning of ecosystems, the driving forces behind biodiversity loss, and the options for promoting biodiversity conservation. The results of the programme indicate that the main costs of biodiversity loss may not be the loss of genetic material but the loss of ecosystem resilience and the insurance it provides against the uncertain environmental effects of economic and population growth. Published by Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, MA 1995.

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## DESERTIFICATION

*Desertification and Energy Policies: An Analysis of Some Issues, with an Accent on Africa, Working Paper #32.* A. Baranzini and J. Goldemberg. Available from: International Academy of the Environment, Chemin de Conches 4, CH-1231 Conches/Geneva, Switzerland. Tel: 41 22 789 13 11, Fax: 41 (22) 789 25 38, e-mail: [iae@unige.ch](mailto:iae@unige.ch), WWW server: <http://delta.unige.ch/iae.html>

*United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.* This kit consists of fact sheets on the nature and causes of desertification, the solutions offered by the Convention and the complete text of the Convention. Available from the Interim Secretariat CCD, Geneva Executive Center, CP 76, CH-1219 Chatelaine, Switzerland. Fax: +41-22/979 9030; or Desertification Control Programme, UNEP, Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya. Fax: +254-2/215615; e-mail: [depacinf@unep.no](mailto:depacinf@unep.no)

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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*Green Plans: greenprint for sustainability.* Huey D. Johnson, Resource Renewal Institute. This author provides a detailed examination of the theory, implementation and performance of green plans as exemplified in nations such as the Netherlands, Canada and New Zealand. Plans currently under consideration in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, the U.K., Germany, Singapore and the European Community are also discussed. Published by the University of Nebraska Press.

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*A Sustainable World: defining and measuring sustainable development.* Thaddeus C. Trzyna, and Julia K. Osborn, eds. Sustainability and sustainable development have become the guiding principles of environmental policy and international development, but what do they really mean? How do we know if we are moving toward a sustainable world? The contributors to this volume address these questions from diverse backgrounds and a variety of perspectives with the aim of

translating ideas into practice. Published by Earthscan, London, 1995.

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## POPULATION

*Population Economics.* Assaf Razin and Efraim Sadka. The authors systematically examine the micro-economic implications of people's decisions about how many children to have and how to provide them on population trends and social issues of population policy. They analyze how these decision affect labor supply, consumption, savings and bequests, investments in human capital and economic growth, along with related new issues such as migration and income redistribution across generations, in an integrated micro-economic framework. Published by MIT Press, Cambridge, MA 1995.

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## INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

*Improving Compliance with International Environmental Law.* James Cameron, Jacob Werksman and Peter



Roderick. This volume seeks to address the crucial question of how compliance with treaties and conventions relating to the global environment could be encouraged effectively without damaging the fragile political consensus that is emerging on environmental issues. Drawing together a series of essays by researchers and lawyers from a variety of backgrounds. Part One provides a thorough overview of compliance theory, both in terms of its theoretical outline and its impacts on citizens and NGOs; Part Two outlines global compliance systems in greater detail, with close analyses of the UN FCCC, the IWC, the EC and CITES; and Part Three focuses on the implementation of international agreements, including studies of the relative effectiveness of measures such as trade sanctions and joint implementation, as well as an examination of the European CO<sub>2</sub>/ Energy Tax.

*Principles of International Environmental Law, Volume 1: Frameworks, Standards and Implementation.* Philippe Sands. This treatise is the first comprehensive account of one of the fastest-growing areas of international law. It sets out the legal and institutional frame-

work: the field's historical development, the relevant international actors, the law-making process, and compliance. Part II considers standards: for general application, for the protection of the atmosphere, oceans, freshwater resources, and biodiversity, and for the control of pollution and waste. It also examines the standards applying in Antarctic and Arctic regions and in the European Community. Part III examines the techniques available for implementation, such as environmental information, and liability and compensation for environmental damage. This part also covers the environmental aspects of the international rules governing trade, competition, finance, technology and intellectual property.

For more information contact [field@gn.apc.org](mailto:field@gn.apc.org)



HOME





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HOME



# Selected Sustainable Development Meetings

## *February 1996*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Conf on Children's Rights & Housing - NY		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Mtg on Assessment of Tech Needs for Sustainability - Netherlands					
	INCD - 8th Session - Geneva					
	Habitat II PrepCom III - New York					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	INCD - 8th Session - Geneva					
	Habitat II PrepCom III - New York					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		
	UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies Meetings - Geneva					
	CSD Ad Hoc Working Group on Sectoral Issues - New York					
	Commission on Population and Development - New York					

# Selected Sustainable Development Meetings

## *March 1996*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 CSD Ad Hoc Working Group on Sectoral Issues - New York UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies Meetings - Geneva	2
3	4 CSD Ad Hoc Working Group on Finance/Production/Consumption - New York Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate - Geneva	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Second Urban Forum for Asia-Pacific - Bangkok CSD Intergovernmental Panel on Forests - Geneva Commission on the Status of Women - New York 4th International Convention of Habitat Colombia - Medellin	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Conference on the Future of Arab Cities - Amman CSD Intergovernmental Panel on Forests - Geneva Commission on the Status of Women - New York Recife Intl Meeting on Urban Poverty - Brazil	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 GEF/NGO Consultation - Washington, DC						