

**Administrative Committee
on Coordination**ACC/1996/1
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ENGLISH ONLY

REPORT OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE INTER-AGENCY
COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT(United Nations Headquarters, New York,
5, 6 and 8 February 1996)

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) held its seventh meeting at United Nations Headquarters on 5, 6 and 8 February 1996. The agenda for the meeting, as adopted by the Committee, is contained in annex I; the list of participants, in annex II; and the list of documents, in annex III.

I. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

A. Follow-up to the outcome of meetings of ACC and other intergovernmental bodies

1. Review of IACSD: phase II

2. Coordinated follow-up to United Nations international conferences

2. The Committee considered that the ongoing review of its functioning and recent ACC's decisions on the functioning of ACC's subsidiary machinery and on inter-agency institutional arrangements for follow-up to the United Nations international conferences were closely linked. It therefore decided to consider items 2 (a) (i) and (ii) of its agenda together.

3. The Committee noted that ACC had approved its recommendations related to phase II of the review of the functioning of IACSD. In accordance with the arrangements determined earlier by ACC, phase III of the review would result in a statement by ACC to be submitted to the General Assembly at its special session in 1997. The statement would analyse the effectiveness of inter-agency arrangements established to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. On the basis of experience gained after UNCED, the statement would suggest ways of promoting more effective and efficient United Nations system-wide support in the area of sustainable development for the period beyond 1997. It was noted that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its fourth session, would consider the report of the Secretary-General on chapter 38 of Agenda 21, which would, inter alia, describe inter-agency arrangements for UNCED follow-up currently in place, and might adopt recommendations relevant to phase III of the review of IACSD. The Committee, however, recalled that the review was under the aegis of ACC and would provide the collective views of the secretariats of the United Nations system.

4. The Committee stressed that the concept of sustainable development as it stemmed from Agenda 21 and other outcomes of UNCED was based on the notion that an integrated and balanced treatment of the economic, social, cultural and environmental dimensions of development was required, as well as of relevant institutional and human resource capacities at the national and international levels. Accordingly, sustainable development needed to be seen as a unifying umbrella concept under which a broad spectrum of United Nations activities in

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the economic, social and environmental/natural resources fields related to a common over-arching goal.

5. The functions of IACSD had evolved in the past four years to assist the ACC in its responsibility of promoting the concept of sustainable development and providing relevant policy guidance throughout the United Nations system, both in the context of the implementation of specific inter-agency programmes and activities, and through mobilizing substantive support to relevant intergovernmental processes. In that sense the implementation of relevant outcomes of major international conferences held following UNCED, which addressed in-depth specific aspects of sustainable development touched upon in Agenda 21, fell within the purview of IACSD.

6. The Committee agreed that the United Nations system efforts to implement the outcomes of UNCED and of other recent global conferences would have greater conceptual coherence if they were viewed as part of broader efforts to achieve sustainable development. As sustainable development provided the unifying link between those various conferences, mobilization of inter-agency support to implement their outcomes also fell within the purview of IACSD.

7. It was recognized that the inter-agency task forces 1/ established by ACC, as time-bound and flexible mechanisms to give impetus to coordinated implementation of intergovernmental commitments that cut across the outcomes of all recent United Nations conferences, could effectively complement the work of IACSD's task managers by providing an additional means to operationalize global agreements at the country and programme levels.

8. The Committee considered it essential to ensure close interaction between IACSD and the task forces with a view to promoting an integrated approach to sustainable development. It was further considered that involvement of relevant IACSD task managers in the activities of the task forces and regular exchanges of information between the task managers and the chairs of the latter could facilitate this. IACSD should continue to advise ACC on policy issues relating to activities of the United Nations system engaged in promoting and supporting sustainable development.

9. IACSD would also continue to promote collaborative arrangements to enhance support by the United Nations system of national implementation of Agenda 21. Relevant ongoing initiatives of the Committee included (a) work on national sustainable development strategies and (b) sustainable development indicators.

10. Finally, IACSD underlined the need for appropriate consultation and interaction between the task forces and ACC's Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) in order to ensure that specific recommendations of the task forces would complement the broader aims of improving the effectiveness of the overall system of United Nations operational activities.

3. Review of the ACC standard classification relating to financial reporting by the United Nations system on the implementation of Agenda 21

11. The Committee was informed that the CCPOQ technical working group on the review of the ACC classification had not yet met, and there were no new developments on the issue to report to the Committee. It was agreed that the Committee would await the outcome of the discussions on the issue which would be transmitted to members by the IACSD secretariat.

4. Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Rural Development

12. It was agreed that by the end of March, IACSD members would submit to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) comments on the report on environment and rural development which had been prepared for the ACC Subcommittee on Rural Development, and that those comments would be consolidated and forwarded to the Subcommittee in time for consideration at its meeting, scheduled for the second quarter of the current year.

5. Relevant decisions in the context of reporting requirements and their implications for IACSD and the Commission on Sustainable Development

13. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) briefed the Committee on the outcome of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, held in Washington, D.C., from 23 October to 3 November 1995. In accordance with the decision of the Conference, UNEP is in the process of consulting with concerned United Nations organizations to develop a plan for the implementation of the Conference outcome for presentation to the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission in March 1996. The Commission has also been requested by the Conference to prepare a draft resolution at its next session, to be considered at the fifty-first session of the General Assembly.

B. Proposed agenda, date and venue for the eighth meeting of the Committee

14. It was agreed that IACSD would hold its next meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10 to 12 July 1996, to be preceded by a two-day meeting of IACSD task managers on 8 and 9 July 1996. The provisional agenda is contained in annex IV.

C. Dates and venue for the fourth session of the
ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas

15. IACSD approved the proposed timing and venue for the fourth session of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas, at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London at the end of May 1996.

D. Dates and venue for the seventeenth session of
the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources, and
nominations for the positions of chairperson
and vice-chairperson for the seventeenth and
eighteenth sessions of the Subcommittee

16. The Committee approved the proposed dates and venue for the seventeenth session of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources, at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris from 9 to 11 October 1996. In taking this decision, IACSD was aware that the Subcommittee itself would not be able to review the preparation of the relevant documentation on freshwater resources for the task managers' meeting scheduled for July 1996. It was therefore agreed that the chairperson and secretary of the Subcommittee would undertake the responsibility for the preparation of the report before July with the necessary consultations among the Subcommittee's members.

17. The Committee also endorsed the recommendations of the Subcommittee for Andras Szöllösi-Nagy, Director of the Division of Water Sciences in UNESCO, to be appointed as Chairperson of the Subcommittee for the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions, and for Frank Harvelt, Deputy Director of the Division of Science, Technology and the Private Sector in UNDP, to be the Vice-Chairperson for the same period.

II. WORK OF IACSD

A. Preparations for the fourth session of the
Commission on Sustainable Development

18. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the Commission informed the Committee on the state of preparations for the next session of the Commission and the latest decisions taken by the Bureau of the Commission on the programme of work during the session. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by the task managers in preparing the documentation for the session.

19. The Committee was informed that the Bureau and individual Governments continuously expressed their appreciation for the fact that the Commission's requests for analytical assessments of progress achieved and relevant policy recommendations relating to specific programme areas under consideration were met by the entire United Nations system in a coordinated and cooperative way. The Committee was further informed that the meetings of task managers provided a useful opportunity to identify the priorities for action and the linkages

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between various policy recommendations to be brought to the attention of the Commission.

20. Some of the Committee's members stated their concern that in the course of the preparation of the reports for the Commission, they had experienced difficulties in obtaining inputs from non-governmental organizations and major groups. In this connection, the Chairman suggested that the possibility of using the services of the Non-governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) might be explored.

21. The Committee underscored the need for the promotion of greater gender balance in various Panels that would take place during sessions of the Commission, particularly in the Panel that would address the special session of the General Assembly in 1997. It was also felt that the latter Panel could include a representative from the non-governmental sector and a high-level official from a United Nations agency, who could bring to the discussion, on behalf of the system, its views and perspectives related to the 1997 review. It was decided that the representative of UNDP would bring these considerations to the attention of the next meeting of the Bureau.

22. The representative of UNESCO informed the Committee on the state of preparations for the Panel on Education and Sustainable Development that would take place during the next session of the Commission. It was felt that the Panel had to be organized in a way that would maximize its impact on the Commission's deliberations and recommendations on this important issue.

23. The Committee expressed its desire that the Commission give due attention to a discussion of energy issues that should be considered among the priorities in the context of sustainable development. In particular, it was felt that the Commission, in its discussions of energy issues in the context of chapter 9 should benefit from the outcome of the work of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development that would take place prior to the session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Sectoral Issues. Furthermore, UNDP confirmed that it was planning to organize, in cooperation with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, a half-day workshop on energy and sustainable development. A number of participants expressed their interest in being involved in that activity, in particular the following bodies: Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat; United Nations Centre for Human Settlements of the United Nations Secretariat (Habitat); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); UNESCO; World Health Organization (WHO); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

B. Support for Agenda 21: coordination and planning
at the national level

1. National strategies

2. Streamlining of requests for national reports

24. The Committee considered the conclusions and recommendations contained in the background papers prepared by UNDP and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. The Committee welcomed the meeting of a core group of representatives of the IACSD Task Force on National Strategies and of the Working Party on Environment and Development Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) to discuss a joint follow-up to the workshop held in Paris in October 1995.

25. It was felt that its work, aimed at the facilitation of national implementation, inter alia, through the elaboration of national sustainable strategies and similar instruments, as well as formulation of a common system-wide approach in this area, should continue to be a priority. An important issue was the need to link the work being done on national strategies with that being done on sectoral strategies. In that context the Committee requested UNDP to continue to lead the Task Force on National Strategies.

26. It was agreed that future work in the field should fully take into account specific country priorities. In those cases when national authorities felt that their strategic planning priorities needed to be focused on addressing a specific problem (i.e. combating desertification), the United Nations system could assist in incorporating sustainable development considerations into relevant national plans.

27. Furthermore, it would be important to further explore and promote the most effective ways for linking various national sectoral plans to a comprehensive strategic planning framework aimed at achieving sustainable development. Exchange of information, including through preparation of case-studies and dissemination of their results, on the state of the art country experiences would be essential to achieve progress in this area. Preparation of national inventories of various plans and programme documents could be seen as a first step in streamlining national planning processes and the elaboration of recommendations aimed at their adjustment towards sustainable development objectives.

28. The Committee noted that various pilot activities were proposed or under way in a number of countries. It invited the Task Force to keep track of those activities and enhance their consistency.

29. It was also felt that country strategy notes could be seen as an important tool for providing a vital link between the programmes and projects of the United Nations system carried out at the national level and national sustainable development strategies prepared by countries.

30. The Committee, while underscoring the importance of reporting for monitoring compliance and the implementation of conventions and non-legally binding agreements, expressed concern with the proliferation of reporting requirements, and believed that both the organizations of the United Nations system and reporting countries would benefit from its streamlining. The Committee also recognized that the scope for streamlining was limited since requests for reports invariably arose from specific intergovernmental mandates, including treaty obligations. It was felt nevertheless, that possibilities for streamlining the process existed, particularly in the area of identifying and simplifying requests, and that the information available could be used in a more effective manner. The Committee invited the task managers to take the lead in enhancing the consistency of requests for information in areas where overlap was identified and of related questionnaires, as part of a process leading towards the streamlining of reports.

C. UNCED follow-up at the regional level; meeting
of regional institutions

31. The Committee was informed on the outcome of the meeting of regional institutions organized by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. The Committee reconfirmed the importance of active involvement of regional institutions in both the implementation of Agenda 21 and its own work. However, it was felt that there was a need to go beyond establishing closer links and cooperation with regional commissions, regional offices of UNEP and regional development banks, and strive to involve regional entities operating under the aegis of various United Nations agencies.

32. In this context the Committee agreed to:

(a) Request the Department, in cooperation with the regional commissions and other appropriate regional coordination mechanisms, to establish inventories in those areas where they do not exist of all regional activities in the field of sustainable development carried out under the auspices or with the involvement of United Nations organizations;

(b) Try to identify, particularly in the context of the 1997 review, sustainable development issues and priorities that could be better addressed at the regional, rather than at global or national levels.

D. Planning for the 1997 special session of the
General Assembly

33. The Committee underscored the political importance of the 1997 special session of the General Assembly, which would review progress achieved after UNCED, and reconfirmed its commitment to provide broad system-wide support to that major event.

34. The Committee agreed that the special session provided an opportunity for reaffirming global commitment to sustainable development and reinforcing the political momentum reached at Rio. It was felt that the United Nations system

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should approach the preparations for the special session in a proactive way with a view to ensuring that the outcome of the 1997 review led to a better definition of sustainable development as a concept pooling together factors of economic growth, social equity, environmental quality and rational use of natural resources and giving a more operational meaning to sustainable development not as a "sector" for policy-making at the national and international levels but rather as a guiding and organizing policy principle.

35. The Committee was informed that the results of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly indicated that in the view of Governments the special session should not be aimed at revising Agenda 21, which continued to provide a viable policy framework for achieving sustainable development worldwide, but should be geared towards identifying gaps and impediments in its implementation, as well as key priorities to be addressed in the future.

36. In this context, the Committee felt that attention should be given to the impact of major trends, such as globalization, privatization, investments and international financial flows, macroeconomic developments, and, at the national level, urbanization and decentralization. More focus should be given to the major driving forces of development. In this context, the role of industry needed to be more explicitly addressed. The importance of macroeconomic stability for encouraging and promoting sustainable development was also highlighted. Sectoral issues should be dealt with in a development context, and not merely from an environmental perspective. Among the issues that deserved priority attention were energy and development, water and development, chemical safety and wastes; the health impacts should be more explicitly taken into account in particular the incidence of emerging and re-emerging diseases. Changing consumption and production patterns was seen as one of the key areas for further work. Particular attention was drawn to the lack of progress in terms of means of implementation, particularly financial flows and transfer of technology. Those considerations could be brought to the attention of the High-Level Segment of the fourth session of the Commission, which is expected to give policy guidance to preparations for the special session.

37. As to the preparation of documentation for the special session, the Committee agreed that the format and content of the task managers' reports on sectoral and cross-sectoral issues would be different from more comprehensive reports prepared earlier for the Commission on Sustainable Development. The reports for 1997, building on experience gained since UNCED, should focus on a selected number of key policy objectives within respective areas using the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development as guidance for selection. The reports would then describe significant policy changes at the national and international level that had taken place and would assess their impact. Major changes in the approaches of key economic actors should also be addressed. The Committee agreed that the best way to treat progress achieved under the Rio conventions, as well as the outcomes of major global conferences that took place after Rio would be in the context of relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral reports. The Committee also agreed on the following schedule:

By the end of February 1996, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development would circulate to task managers guidelines for the preparation of the concise reports dealing with specific programme areas of

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Agenda 21. The guidelines should be flexible enough to ensure the most effective treatment of individual sectoral and cross-sectoral issues, but, at the same time, provide an opportunity for comparison of progress achieved in specific areas. Outlines of individual reports will be "fine-tuned" by the task managers in close consultation with all interested organizations.

At the same time, the Department, in cooperation with relevant agencies and organizations, would launch the preparation of a "trends" study in sustainable development.

By the end of May 1996, the task managers would circulate the first drafts of their reports in order to allow them to be studied by all interested organizations and assist the Department in preparing annotated suggestions for a comprehensive report on the overall progress achieved since Rio.

In July 1996 a meeting of the task managers would be held immediately prior to the eighth meeting of IACSD with a view to elaborating a common approach to specific conclusions and recommendations contained in individual sectoral/cross-sectoral reports and their linkages, as well as considering the annotated outline prepared by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of a comprehensive report on the overall progress achieved. This would assist IACSD in identifying at its eighth session key issues and priorities. By that time, the progress of the "trends" study referred to above will be brought to its attention. The meeting would also agree on the arrangements for finalizing the documentation for the special session.

38. It was also agreed that the Department, drawing on the work of UNEP in the area of environmental law, would, as task manager, undertake an assessment of the implementation of the Principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in international and national law. 2/

39. The Committee agreed that the decisions on possible institutional changes that could result from the 1997 review (and that go beyond specific inter-agency machinery) fell within the competence of intergovernmental processes, and that in formulating possible suggestions in the context of phase III of the review of IACSD the outcomes of a broader discussion on the United Nations reform currently under way would be taken into account.

40. The Committee also felt that the preparation of documentation should be as broad-based as possible and involve all relevant stakeholders, including the non-governmental organizations.

E. Reports of subsidiary bodies reporting to IACSD

1. Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas at its third session

41. The Chairman of IACSD introduced the report of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas on its third session (ACC/1995/21). He explained that

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the Subcommittee had prepared the draft text of the report of the Secretary-General on chapter 17 of Agenda 21 and an addendum according to guidance provided by IACSD at its sixth meeting. In response to queries from Committee members, it was clarified that the issues related to small island developing States (SIDS) would not form part of the report on oceans and coastal areas, but would be the subject of a separate report. The Committee approved the timing and venue of the fourth session of the Subcommittee in London at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at the end of May 1996.

2. Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources at its sixteenth session

42. The Secretary of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources introduced the report of the Subcommittee on Water Resources on its sixteenth session (ACC/1995/22) and briefed the Committee on the following issues of particular interest to it: (a) the preparation of indicators for sustainable development in the field of water resources; (b) the Global Water Partnership; (c) the formulation of the water component of the Secretary-General's Special Initiative on Africa; and (d) preparations for the observance of the World Day for Water in 1996. He reported that the work on sustainable development indicators in the field of water resources was progressing satisfactorily; the Subcommittee had approved the inclusion of an additional indicator and the work on the methodology sheets was near completion. It was also reported that the document on the comprehensive assessment of freshwater resources would be prepared in four chapters and that the draft version of three of the chapters would be completed soon. The fourth chapter on strategies and policy options for the concerted sustainable development of freshwater resources would be finalized after the third session of the Committee on Natural Resources, to be held in March 1996. With regard to the Secretary-General's Special Initiative on Africa, it was noted that the financial resources envisaged for the water component were vastly inadequate relative to the magnitude and importance of the water problems in that continent. Regarding the preparations for the World Day for Water, the Committee was informed that as part of the global observance of the Day in 1996, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) would be convening a conference on the management of water resources in large cities and towns and other events, to take place in Beijing from 18 to 22 March in the context of the preparations for Habitat II. The Government of China had offered to host the global observances of the World Day for Water in 1996. It was also noted that the Subcommittee had agreed on the topic "Water for thirsty cities" as the theme for the 1996 World Day for Water to coincide with the convening of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). The Committee strongly recommended active participation by all agencies in the observances of the World Day for Water in Beijing.

43. The Committee approved the dates and venue of the seventeenth session at the headquarters of UNESCO in Paris, from 9 to 11 October 1996, to be preceded by the sixth meeting of the Inter-agency Steering Committee for Water Supply and Sanitation from 7 to 8 October 1996.

F. Other matters

1. Intergovernmental Panel on Forests

44. The Coordinator of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests secretariat briefed the Committee on the developments since the establishment of the Panel and on the preparations for the second meeting of the Panel to be held in Geneva from 11 to 22 March 1996. The preparations were founded on three distinct but mutually supportive activities. The Inter-agency Task Force on Forests was the informal United Nations system response to the decision taken at the Commission at its third session to establish the Panel. Modelled to a certain degree on IACSD, the seven members, FAO, UNEP, UNDP, the World Bank, the Department for Policy Coordination and Development, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, had taken on lead roles for each of the 11 programme elements of the Panel's programme of work.

45. It was felt that the collaboration within the Task Force had worked in an excellent fashion and resulted in good partnerships. The work of IPF was supported by a small secretariat comprising staff members seconded from several of the Task Force member organizations, reflecting the time-bound nature of the Panel.

46. There were also several country-led initiatives, which were organized in support of several of the programme elements of the work of the Panel. All three activities would lead to the mobilization of the available expertise and perspectives on the issue of forests and would provide the best possible base for discussion in the Panel that would result in a report for the Commission at its fifth session in 1997. It was felt that in the issue of forests many of the generic cross-cutting issues on the Commission agenda intersected and that to a certain extent the Panel's work provided an opportunity to test some of the concepts discussed in the Commission on a specific sector, with some interesting ideas emerging that might also be of interest to the Commission.

2. Sustainable development indicators

47. The Committee underscored the importance of work on the development of indicators for sustainable development and expressed its satisfaction with the active inter-agency cooperation in this area, as well as with the stated intentions of those agencies that so far had not been directly involved in the work to make relevant contributions. It was felt that specific modalities for training and capacity-building in the area should be considered only after the finalization of the conceptual stage in the elaboration of such indicators, and that it should be seen more in the context of cooperation of relevant entities of the United Nations system with appropriate government authorities, with a view to explaining the nature of the indicators and the possibilities for their application.

48. The Committee also discussed the links between the work carried out under chapter 8 in the area of "green accounting" and the elaboration of indicators for sustainable development, as well as the relevant role of the ACC

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Subcommittee on Statistical Activities and the United Nations Statistical Commission in that area.

3. Establishment of common compatible data systems

49. The Committee recognized the need for further work to enhance the accessibility of information. The Committee endorsed the recommendations made by the Meeting on Common/Compatible Systems of Access to Data (New York, 19 January 1996), contained in document CRP.12, and invited the task managers to identify within their respective chapters, the relevant databases of processed information. The idea of a sustainable development home page on the World Wide Web was welcomed. The Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development would develop a further proposal.

50. The Committee expressed concern about the proliferation of activities related to monitoring and data collection. It welcomed the efforts of the task managers for chapter 40 in bringing the various actors together, and in combining the various meetings related to data collection and dissemination in the field of sustainable development. Further coordination with other areas, for example activities related to the follow-up of other major conferences, should be pursued.

4. Solar energy summit

51. The representative of UNESCO informed IACSD about the state of progress in organizing the world solar summit to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe in September 1996 upon the invitation of the President of Zimbabwe. He referred in particular to the results of the recent ad hoc inter-agency consultation on this matter (UNESCO, Paris, 29-30 January 1996). He reiterated the invitation to the organizations of the United Nations system with relevant programmes to support the event and to cooperate in the World Solar Programme 1996-2005. Particular mention was made of the letter of the Secretary-General of 7 September 1995 addressed to the Director-General of UNESCO welcoming the programme as a joint system-wide effort. The Committee felt that promoting renewable sources of energy represented a significant contribution to sustainable development. It was an important means both for improving the quality of life in many rural areas, in particular in developing countries, and for reducing the longer-term adverse environmental effects of green-house gas emissions.

5. Global Water Partnership

52. A representative of UNDP briefed the Committee on the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the objective of which was to promote an integrated sustainable approach to water management. The Partnership was conceived to consolidate UNDP, World Bank and FAO programmes in the areas of water supply and sanitation, irrigation and capacity-building. It was launched by UNDP and the World Bank in August 1995. In order to develop further the concept of the Partnership, UNDP and the World Bank invited prospective partners to join in

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designing the scope of the initiative, and develop implementation modalities. The meeting, which was held in Stockholm in December 1995, issued a mission statement which clarified the scope, mode of operation and financial and institutional arrangements of the Partnership. It was decided not to create any new structures, and that members could pay for the maintenance of a small secretariat and committees either through voluntary contributions or by contributing technical inputs. The funding for the programme itself would be worked out on an individual basis. The Partnership would work exclusively at the country level, although modalities for cooperation among the partners at the national level had yet to be worked out. A mutually beneficial relationship had also been established between the Partnership and the World Water Council. It was reported that a similar arrangement would be worked out with the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council.

6. Dates, venue and provisional agenda for
the eighth meeting of IACSD

53. It was agreed that IACSD would hold its eighth meeting in New York at United Nations Headquarters from 10 to 12 July 1996, to be preceded by a two-day meeting of IACSD task managers on 8 and 9 July 1996.

54. The Committee approved the provisional agenda for its eighth meeting, shown in annex IV.

Notes

1/ The three inter-agency task forces are concerned with (a) an enabling environment for social and economic development; (b) employment and sustainable livelihoods; and (c) basic social services for all.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

Annex I

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda and timetable.
2. Follow-up to the outcome of meetings of:
 - (a) ACC:
 - (i) Review of IACSD: phase II;
 - (ii) Coordinated follow-up to recent United Nations international conferences;
 - (iii) Review of the ACC standard classification relating to financial reporting by the United Nations system on the implementation of Agenda 21;
 - (b) Other intergovernmental bodies: Relevant decisions in the context of reporting requirements and implications for IACSD and the Commission on Sustainable Development.
3. Preparations for the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development:
 - (a) Agency participation in the fourth session of the Commission;
 - (b) System-wide coordination in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.
4. Support for Agenda 21 coordination and planning activities at the national level:
 - (a) National strategies;
 - (b) Streamlining of requests for national reports.
5. UNCED follow-up at the regional level; meeting of regional institutions.
6. Planning for the 1997 special session of the General Assembly.
7. Reports of subsidiary bodies reporting to IACSD:
 - (a) Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas on its third session;
 - (b) Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources at its sixteenth session.

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8. Other matters:

- (a) Intergovernmental Panel on Forests;
- (b) Sustainable development indicators;
- (c) Establishment of common compatible data systems;
- (d) Solar energy summit;
- (e) Global Water Partnership;
- (f) Dates, venue and provisional agenda for the eighth session of IACSD.

9. Adoption of the report.

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairman: N. Desai (United Nations)

Secretary: C. Hackett (United Nations)

United Nations, its entities and programmes

Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development	J. Waller-Hunter K. Ruffing L. Hyttinen L. Flanders J. Maini P. Najlis A. Vasilyev
Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis	P. Bartelmus G. Carissimo
Department for Development Support and Management Services	M. Brewster W. Shearer R. A. Gordon
Department of Humanitarian Affairs	K. Kuroda
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	K. Ray R. Wichmann
Economic Commission for Europe	D. Dreiblatt
Regional Commissions New York Office	M. McCaffery
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	G. Kell K. Rahman
United Nations Environment Programme	F. Schlingemann A. Amin
United Nations Children's Fund	JingJing Qian
United Nations Development Programme	R. Lenton K. Jorgensen
United Nations Population Fund	A. Jorgensen-Dahl
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	H. Mori

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Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organization	L. R. Kohler
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	W. Mann
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	G. Glaser
World Health Organization	W. Kreisel
World Bank	J. Martin-Brown J. Dixon A. Steer
International Monetary Fund	Ke-Young Chu
World Meteorological Organization	V. G. Boldirev L. E. Olsson
International Fund for Agricultural Development	V. P. Weill-Hallé
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	A. Tcheknavorian-Asenbauer S. Hansen
* * *	
International Atomic Energy Agency	M. S. Opelz
* * *	
World Tourism Organization	O. N'Diaye
* * *	
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	J. E. Butler
* * *	
ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources	P. Najlis

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Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

ACC/IACSD/VII/1996/CRP.1	Annotated provisional agenda [item 1]
ACC/IACSD/VII/1996/CRP.2	Timetable [item 1]
ACC/IACSD/VII/1996/CRP.3	The environment and rural development: Towards ecologically and socially sustainable development in rural areas (Paper prepared by UNRISD at the request of UNEP for discussion at the 23rd meeting of the ACC Subcommittee on Rural Development, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 31 May- 2 June 1995) [item 2(a)(iv)]
ACC/IACSD/VII/1996/CRP.4	Preparations for the Fourth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (Report of the Meeting of the IACSD's Task Managers for issues to be dealt with by the Fourth Session of the CSD, New York, 28-30 November 1995) [item 3(a)]
ACC/IACSD/VII/1996/CRP.5	Support for Agenda 21 coordination and planning activities at the national level - National strategies (Background note prepared by UNDP) [item 4(a)]
ACC/IACSD/VII/1996/CRP.6	Streamlining of national reporting requirements (Background note prepared by UNDPCSD) [item 4(a)]
ACC/IACSD/VII/1996/CRP.7	UNCED follow-up at the regional level: Meeting of Regional Institutions (Report of the Meeting of Regional Institutions, New York, 6-7 December 1995) [item 5]
ACC/IACSD/VII/1996/CRP.8	Planning for the 1997 Special Session of the General Assembly (Background paper prepared by UNDPCSD) [item 6]
ACC/IACSD/VII/1996/CRP.9	Reports of subsidiary bodies reporting to IACSD: Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas, third session, IOC headquarters, UNESCO, Paris, 28-30 August 1995 [item 7(a)]

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ACC/IACSD/VII/1996/CRP.10

Reports of subsidiary bodies reporting to IACSD: Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources, sixteenth session, UNDP headquarters, New York, 4-6 October 1995 [item 7(b)]

ACC/IACSD/VII/1996/CRP.11

Sustainable development indicators (Background paper prepared by UNDP/PCSD) [item 8(b)]

ACC/IACSD/VII/1996/CRP.12

Establishment of common compatible data systems (Background note prepared by UNDP/PCSD) [item 8(c)]

Annex IV

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE INTER-AGENCY
COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. Adoption of the agenda and timetable.
2. Follow-up to the outcome of meetings of ACC and relevant intergovernmental bodies.
3. Preparations for the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and for the 1997 special session of the General Assembly.
4. Review of IACSD: phase III.
5. Reports of subsidiary bodies reporting to IACSD.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report.
