



# Administrative Committee on Coordination

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English only

## Report of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth meeting

New York, 8–9 March 1999

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## I. Introduction

1. The Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) held its thirteenth meeting at United Nations Headquarters on 8 and 9 March 1999. The agenda for the session, as adopted by the Committee, is contained in annex I, the list of participants in annex II, the list of documents in annex III and the provisional agenda for the fourteenth meeting in annex IV.

2. After the adoption of the agenda, the Chairman brought to the attention of the Committee the issue of the continued participation of the Organization of American States (OAS) as an observer in the work of the Committee. It was decided that IACSD would follow the general practice of opening the meeting to intergovernmental bodies on specific issues. In preparing this decision, it was noted that IACSD, as a subsidiary body of ACC, is open for membership to agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and provides for standing observer status to the secretariats of relevant intergovernmental processes held under the aegis of the United Nations. Other intergovernmental organizations, subject to agreement by the Committee, may be invited to participate as observers in meetings of IACSD or parts thereof which are dealing with matters related to ongoing or possible cooperation between the United Nations system and such intergovernmental organizations. This was the case in 1998 when OAS had been invited as an observer to brief IACSD at its twelfth meeting on its work on follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the Bolivia Summit. IACSD agreed that the observer from OAS could attend the thirteenth meeting when items 3, 4, 5 and 8 were being discussed.

## II. Matters for consideration by the Administrative Committee on Coordination

### A. Follow-up to the outcome of meetings of ACC

3. The Committee considered the conclusions of the second regular session of 1998 of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC/1998/20), in particular the issue of the expansion of the task manager system as recommended to it by IACSD.

### Expansion of the task manager system

4. The Committee supported the approach suggested in document ACC/IACSD/XIII/CRP.3, which had been prepared by the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat in follow-up to initial proposals on this matter contained in the report of the twelfth meeting of IACSD and subsequent outcomes of the fall 1998 meeting of ACC. It was noted that since the IACSD task manager system had been established, a number of other processes had been initiated in response to various intergovernmental mandates which needed to be taken into account in further work to enhance the overall functioning of the United Nations system. It was agreed that further work towards broadening the current system of task manager aimed at avoiding multiple inter-agency mechanisms of policy coordination at the global level in any given thematic area should be undertaken in close cooperation with the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ).

5. In light of the above, it was agreed to invite CCPOQ to a joint working meeting of designated members of IACSD and CCPOQ (that would also involve the secretariats of the two Committees) in order to elaborate more specific proposals which could be considered at the next meetings of IACSD and CCPOQ, and later submitted for consideration and action by ACC. Such a joint meeting could take place on the margins of the 1999 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council and could focus, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

(a) To explore the potential and practical implications of broadening the responsibilities of current IACSD task managers beyond matters directly related to follow-up to UNCED and the 1997 special session of the General Assembly, as well as supporting the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development so that they could take the lead in facilitating system-wide cooperation and coordination in relation to the implementation of the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings and processes (e.g., broadening the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) so that it becomes a United Nations system-wide "Issue/task manager" for science and education in addition to being the task manager for chapters 35 and 36 of Agenda 21);

(b) To identify thematic areas where specific inter-agency processes have been established in follow-up to major programmes of action emanating from intergovernmental meetings and processes other than those directly related to UNCED (e.g., work led by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and work led by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in

follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). In this case, the role of relevant IACSD task managers would be to provide for an effective interface between the work of the inter-agency coordination process in question with IACSD, and also to ensure that relevant requirements of the Commission are met, as appropriate;

(c) To identify thematic areas which cross-cut the activities of the United Nations system but where the main focus of work is at the operational level, and where accordingly the main coordination efforts could be effectively carried out by CCPOQ (e.g., poverty);

(d) To identify any thematic gaps in the current task manager's system where responsibilities for facilitating coordination at the system-wide level could be further delegated to an existing inter-agency mechanism, whether standing or ad hoc (e.g., the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality (IACWGE), the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, which acts as the mechanism to coordinate response to humanitarian emergencies);

(e) To identify any areas (or specific issues) where the current system of the task managers may need to be revisited (for example, where setting up inter-agency working groups may prove to be necessary, such as in the area of biotechnology), and to identify any thematic gaps that may exist and need to be filled through designation of an additional task manager (e.g., tourism, pending the outcome of the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on that issue);

(f) To elaborate proposals on what could constitute the terms of reference of a United Nations system-wide task/issue manager (e.g., facilitating coordination; promoting joint action, being a focal point for information, including on related processes in the United Nations system etc.).

6. The Committee reiterated the need for a clearer division of responsibilities between IACSD, IACWGE and CCPOQ, as the three standing committees of ACC with responsibilities for follow-up to major United Nations conferences. While it was generally agreed that the role of CCPOQ, to a large extent, is to translate substantive results of policy discussions in IACSD and IACWGE into specific modalities of United Nations system collaboration at the country level, in those programmatic areas where CCPOQ would take the lead as the United Nations system-wide thematic coordinator (e.g., poverty, see above) a regular flow of information has to be established between CCPOQ and the other two Committees so as to ensure coordinated inputs to the Organizational Committee (OC) of ACC and ACC.

7. It was agreed that the Chairman of IACSD would present this proposal to CCPOQ at its forthcoming session, and that the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs could facilitate the arrangements for this joint meeting and related follow-up work.

#### **Follow-up to the International Decade on Natural Disaster Reduction**

8. The Committee also agreed that a similar approach could be applied to any inter-agency arrangement that will be agreed upon in follow-up to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), in particular the work currently carried out through the Steering Committee of IDNDR. It was felt that matters related to mobilizing inter-agency relief efforts related to natural disasters would need to continue to rest with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee that deals with humanitarian emergencies. However, a better interface may need to be established between any inter-agency arrangement to follow-up IDNDR and IACSD on matters related to long-term sustainable development prospects and the work related to preparedness for, prevention of and raising the capacity to mitigate the impacts of natural and other disasters.

#### **Follow-up to the Secretary-General's report on Africa**

9. IACSD's attention was also drawn to paragraph 30 (c) of the ACC report on the subject of the causes of conflict and the promotion of peace and sustainable development in Africa, in which ACC, *inter alia*, requests IACSD to give attention to ways of pursuing the objectives set out in the report of the Secretary-General. It was the view of the Committee that additional information was required to ascertain in what areas IACSD could best contribute to the objectives set out in the report. It was therefore decided to request the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries, in conjunction with the Division for Sustainable Development to review the areas in which IACSD could make a substantial contribution to the implementation of the objectives established in the report.

#### **United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council including matters related to the establishment of an environmental management group**

10. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the successful outcome of the twentieth session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council, including the approval by the Governing Council of

measures aimed at the reform of UNEP, as well as increased resources of the environment fund to the level of US\$ 120 million.

11. The Committee further noted the decision of the Governing Council entitled "Views of the Governing Council on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements", in which the Council expressed its support for the proposal of the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of an environmental management group and encouraged the Secretary-General to undertake consultations with members of ACC to develop its scope, appropriate criteria for membership and working methods in a flexible and cost-effective manner for its expeditious establishment.

12. The representative of UNEP briefed the Committee regarding the discussions on the proposed group during the fifty-third session of the General Assembly and the Governing Council. He also informed the Committee that the UNEP secretariat sees the group as a mechanism that could usefully supplement the current work in the United Nations system in the area of environment and human settlements through promoting greater policy coordination and better issue management, as proposed by the Secretary-General in specific environmental and human settlements areas. In UNEP's view, the group should not be seen as duplicating the work of IACSD and of other existing mechanisms of inter-agency coordination since it will be of a different nature and will focus on specific issues and problems on the environment and human settlements agenda requiring attention. The group should function in a flexible manner, responding to emerging issues on a timely basis and in a cost-effective manner. It would offer a vehicle to address such issues and suggest possible solutions in a given time-frame with involvement of relevant actors from within and, when necessary, outside the United Nations system.

13. Members of the Committee welcomed the opportunity to become involved in a consultative process on the proposal within the ACC framework, as envisaged by the United Nations Secretary-General. The Committee agreed that the group, if properly designed, could offer an innovative problem solving mechanism, that has a potential for contributing added value to existing inter-agency arrangements already in place.

14. The Committee recommended that the following considerations be taken into account in further consultations in the United Nations system regarding the establishment of the group, including its terms of reference, criteria for membership and possible methods of work:

(a) It is essential to ensure that the group does not duplicate the work of IACSD and its task managers, and other

existing arrangements for inter-agency coordination, including relevant ACC subsidiary bodies. The group should be seen not as a new standing body for inter-agency coordination but rather as a function that would facilitate the Executive Director of UNEP to carry out his functions related to promotion of coordinated approaches to environmental/human settlements issues in the United Nations system and to bring an environmental perspective, in particular its normative and analytical aspects, into the work of other organizations, including IACSD and its task managers;

(b) The group should, *inter alia*, facilitate UNEP in carrying out its responsibilities as the IACSD task manager for a number of environment-related chapters of Agenda 21 with a view to enhancing UNEP's contribution to the work of IACSD and the Commission, as appropriate. The group could be also used as a mechanism that would allow UNEP to effectively bring the environmental perspective into the work of other IACSD task managers. The Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests, which assists the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as the task manager for chapter 11 of Agenda 21, coordinates support to the Commission's Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and fosters collaboration between international organizations in the area of forests, could serve as a useful example;

(c) The group could function as a coherent process of consultations on specific environment/human settlements issues, to be identified by the Executive Director of UNEP in consultation with executive heads of United Nations organizations. Such consultations would involve those organizations from within and outside the United Nations system that are specifically relevant to the problem to be addressed and could make a concrete contribution to its solution. The Ecosystems Conservation Group, which brings together United Nations agencies, secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions and non-United Nations international institutions to address important and emerging biodiversity issues, could serve as an example for the group of an issue management approach. In addition, the recent initiative of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to involve relevant United Nations organizations in a consultative process that allows them to better respond to the follow-up of the Kyoto mechanisms may also serve as a useful example;

(d) The work of the group should be demand driven and based on the need to resolve specific issues in a given time-frame. Such issues could as a rule be determined through a consultative process, involving, as appropriate, IACSD and other inter-agency bodies, unless such issues are of an urgent nature. Specific tasks to be addressed by the group should be

time-bound, and the results of its deliberations, when appropriate, should be brought to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General as well as relevant inter-agency and/or intergovernmental bodies. Furthermore, recommendations of the group that have a bearing on the United Nations system's work in sustainable development, should be submitted to the ACC through IACSD.

## **B. Dates, venue and provisional agenda for the fourteenth meeting of IACSD**

15. The Committee welcomed the invitation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to hold its next meeting at IAEA headquarters at Vienna during the week of 13 or 20 September 1999. The provisional agenda for the meeting is contained in annex IV to the present report.

## **III. Work of IACSD**

### **A. Matters related to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development**

16. The Committee was briefed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on the results of the meetings of Commission's ad hoc inter-sessional working groups (New York, 22–26 February and 1–5 March 1999), as well as on organization of work during the Commission's seventh session.

17. The Committee noted that the Chairman of the Commission did not expect any formal statements other than those delivered by ministers representing United Nations Member States to be made during the general debate of the high-level segment of the Commission. He felt, however, that executive heads of relevant United Nations organizations could make an important contribution to the interactive dialogue sessions to take place during the high-level segment. Members of IACSD were invited to inform the Department, as soon as possible, regarding the intention of the executive heads of United Nations organizations to participate in the seventh session of the Commission, as well as on any activities, such as side events, they might consider organizing.

18. The Committee reconfirmed that the general arrangements for preparations for the eighth session of the Commission would be similar to those agreed earlier in relation to its previous sessions. IACSD welcomed the work already initiated by FAO, as the task manager for a number of land-related chapters of Agenda 21, including organizing the FAO/Netherlands conference on the multifunctional

character of agriculture and land management, which was expected to provide major input to the eighth session of the Commission and also to facilitate the work of FAO in preparation of the relevant report of the Secretary-General.

### **B. Follow-up to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly**

19. The Committee noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 53/188, entitled "Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of UNCED and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly", underscored the importance of continued active and collaborative involvement of all relevant parts of the United Nations system in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and requested the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with all relevant parts of the United Nations system and taking into account the outcome of the deliberations of the Commission, to submit to the Assembly for its consideration at future sessions, through the Economic and Social Council in view of its coordination function, an analytical report on measures taken within the United Nations system to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21 and Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, including identification of constraints and recommendations on how to address these constraints.

20. The Committee agreed that in such a report it would not be to provide a comprehensive annual assessment of United Nations system-wide activities in the field of sustainable development. It should be seen as a concise information document summarizing the efforts undertaken in the United Nations system to implement Agenda 21 and the outcome of the 1997 special session and highlighting the main conclusions reached by IACSD and ACC which need to be brought to the attention of Member States of the Council and General Assembly. Consequently, the report will not describe any individual or joint activities carried out by United Nations organizations in support of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the 1997 special session but should rather focus on strategic matters related to collaboration within the United Nations system in the field of sustainable development, analyse the main challenges and constraints in this area, and provide a brief update of actions required in follow-up to the work of the Commission and other intergovernmental bodies, as appropriate. The report would draw from the main outcomes of the work undertaken by IACSD as well as other relevant mechanisms of inter-agency coordination in a given period.

21. The Committee agreed that the report should contain the following main elements:

## **I. Work under way in the United Nations system to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its 1997 special session**

This section could contain:

- A summary of the main conclusions and recommendations adopted at the twelfth and thirteenth meetings of IACSD and the results of their consideration in ACC;
- A summary of the main outcomes of the work of the ACC Subcommittees on Freshwater Resources and on Oceans and Coastal Areas;
- A summary of relevant results of work of CCPOQ and other inter-agency bodies, as appropriate;
- A brief reference to inter-agency collaboration in the field of forests (work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests) and energy (launch of the work of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Working Group on Energy).

## **II. United Nations system response to the outcomes of the sixth session of the Commission**

This part could have concise sections covering the following thematic areas which were on the agenda of the Commission at its sixth session:

- Freshwater (with a reference to the work of the ACC Subcommittee on Freshwater Resources (see also above under sect. I);
- Industry (with a focus on United Nations system involvement in the ongoing work on voluntary initiatives);
- Transfer of environmentally sound technology, capacity-building, education and public awareness and science for sustainable development (a brief update on work currently under way in the United Nations system in this area).

## **III. Outcomes of the seventh session of the Commission that call for action by the United Nations system (brief overview)**

## **IV. Constraints faced by the United Nations system in the field of sustainable development and recommendations on how to address these constraints**

This section can include information (including information that needs to be brought to the attention of the Council and General Assembly) of the following nature:

- Difficulties related to conflicting/inconsistent decisions taken by various governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system;
- Constraints related to the availability of resources and capacity, in particular required to implement new mandates;
- Other possible constraints;
- Recommendations on how to overcome the above constraints.

22. Bearing in mind that the report has to be submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999, which will be held at Geneva in June/July 1999, the Committee agreed on the following process of its preparation (the total length of the report not to exceed 16 pages):

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs will prepare and circulate by 25 March 1999 a first draft covering sections I and II, and to some extent section IV of the outline suggested above.

Organizations of the United Nations system will be invited to comment on this draft and also to submit their contributions for section IV by 10 April 1999.

Section III (which would be just factual material emanating from the seventh session of the Commission) will be added immediately after the conclusion of that session and circulated, together with redrafted sections I, II and IV, to the members of the Committee by 10 May 1999. Members of IACSD will be invited to clear the draft by 20 May 1999.

## **C. Cooperation in the energy area: preparation for energy discussions in 2001**

23. IACSD welcomed the report on preparations for the ninth session of the Commission, and appreciated the number of initiatives undertaken by various organizations within and

outside the United Nations system in connection with the preparations. Members of the Committee expressed interest in activities relevant to the preparatory process to which they wished to make a contribution. It was agreed that a reference to the work carried out to implement the General Assembly resolution on the world solar programme would be included in the draft programme of work. It was noted that the work of FAO carried out in preparation for the eighth session of the Commission would also provide an input to preparations for its ninth session on the issue of energy. Members of the Committee indicated that their organizations would participate actively in the scheduled meeting of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy, which will further elaborate a common approach and enhance inter-agency cooperation, interact actively with members of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development when they meet in April 1999, and finalize the preparation of a system-wide work plan on energy, taking into account the provisions of document ACC/IACSD/XIII/1999/CRP.5. Special effort should be made to liaise on the subject with agency representatives at United Nations Headquarters.

#### **D. Strengthening of United Nations system coverage of waste management issues**

24. The representative of Habitat presented the results of the initial survey of ongoing activities and readiness to collaborate in strengthening United Nations system coverage of waste management issues (ACC/IACSD/XIII/1999/CRP.8). He noted that while the number of responses to the survey was limited, the message of those who responded was clear in that there is an interest in developing three options for IACSD to promote collaboration in this field: (a) maintaining an inventory of United Nations approaches and activities related to waste issues; (b) maintaining a tool box with guidelines, standards, methods and techniques; and (c) establishing a technical working party on waste management issues. It was proposed that all three options be developed incrementally, starting with the inventory, and establishing technical working parties only in a time-bound and issue-specific fashion, e.g., on standards. The Committee noted that this was an important area which requires more attention and a more common approach from the United Nations system, and expressed its appreciation to Habitat for undertaking the survey. Members of the Committee endorsed the proposal for further work, and reiterated their interest and commitment in participating. They stressed that the waste covered had to go beyond the municipal waste category to include pesticide and other chemicals. The timeliness of this endeavour was highlighted

in view of UNEP's planned conference on sewerage in the year 2001. The Committee also welcomed the readiness of Habitat to explore the possibility of mobilizing required resources through existing programmes with related agendas such as the Urban Environment Forum.

#### **E. Status of Development Watch**

25. The history and status of Development Watch was outlined by UNDP (ACC/IACSD/XIII/1999/CRP.6). While the activities and efforts undertaken related to Development Watch were welcomed by IACSD, it was noted that these had been conceived at an early stage as a sustainable development indicators (SDI) process. Since then a more systematic discussion of SDI had developed at the inter-agency level and much progress in the area of SDI had been achieved. It was thus the view of the Committee that a separate Development Watch mechanism should not be pursued. Rather, it was recommended that the relevant activities be incorporated into the efforts regarding indicators in the context of the Economic and Social Council and other forums. It was reiterated that there is a need for further inter-agency coordination regarding SDI, especially related to national-level coordination and capacity-building at the country level. The Committee also agreed that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNDP should keep IACSD informed about progress made regarding development indicators.

#### **F. Reports of subsidiary bodies reporting to IACSD**

##### **1. Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources on its nineteenth session**

26. The Secretary of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources introduced the report of the Subcommittee on its nineteenth session (Beirut, 29 September to 1 October 1998), and drew attention to three major issues. He noted first of all that in response to a recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session on the compilation and publication of freshwater assessments, the Subcommittee had decided to begin the preparation of a periodic *World Water Development Report* along the lines of the *Human Development Report* — the first edition of which would be published in 2002 to coincide with the 10-year review of chapter 18 of Agenda 21. Second, in order to respond to requests by both the Economic and Social Council and the Commission to improve coordination, the Subcommittee had also agreed to obtain the services of a



consultant to assist it in reviewing its methods of work and to recommend ways in which the Subcommittee could enhance its coordination role, improve the transparency and visibility of its work and become more proactive in accelerating the implementation of chapter 18 of Agenda 21. Third, the Subcommittee had agreed that UNEP would be the lead agency, with the United Nations University (UNU) to provide back-up support, for the United Nations celebration of the 1999 World Water Day, whose theme is "Everyone lives downstream".

27. IACSD noted its appreciation for the work of the Subcommittee, and expressed full support for the strengthening of the Subcommittee in the future. IACSD also welcomed the *Report* as an important initiative by the Subcommittee that would not only address the recommendations of the Commission at its sixth session but also provide a very useful periodic assessment of freshwater resources for national policy makers, United Nations agencies and all stakeholders as a whole. With regard to the proliferation of organizations outside the United Nations system and multiplicity of initiatives in the field of freshwater resources, IACSD supported the systematic efforts of the Subcommittee to provide an umbrella for major international activities in the field, including through cooperation with main organizations outside the United Nations system, and to project the work of the United Nations system as an integrated and coordinated effort, as well illustrated by the *Report* initiative. IACSD also supported the Subcommittee's initiative, originally put forward by UNU, for the creation of a gateway Web site containing the content and location of all water-related United Nations Web sites.

28. Consideration of cooperation between the ACC Subcommittees on Freshwater Resources and on Oceans and Coastal Areas in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities was deferred to the discussion below.

## **2. Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas on its seventh session**

29. In considering the report of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas on its seventh session (Monaco, 8–10 February 1999), the Chairman of IACSD noted two areas requiring, in particular, the Committee's attention. The first was the procedural issue of endorsing the Subcommittee's nomination of P. Bernal, Executive Secretary of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and A. Rogers of the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat as its new Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. The request by the Subcommittee for guidance from IACSD as to the

appropriateness of two different departments from the United Nations Secretariat serving as members of the Subcommittee was discussed and considered not to be a problem, especially as the two departments concerned had separate mandates, both of which were relevant with regard to inter-agency cooperation on oceans issues. Accordingly, IACSD endorsed the elections. The Subcommittee had also requested clarification from IACSD as to the membership status of the relevant convention secretariats, in particular the secretariats of the conventions on biodiversity and climate change, in ACC subsidiary bodies. IACSD noted that their participation was already established in IACSD itself, and therefore was acceptable for the Subcommittee.

30. The second issue requiring IACSD's attention related to inter-agency implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, which had been adopted in November 1995. The Chairman noted that the lack of progress in implementation of the Programme of Action was of concern to some member States, and indicated he would address this issue in his opening statement to the seventh session of the Commission, in April 1999. He would also stress the need for coordination at both the secretariat and intergovernmental levels, including the need for additional resources. Several participants of IACSD welcomed this approach. Several Committee members noted that additional resources were also needed to undertake the full functions required in support of the Programme of Action. It was further noted that some organizations had already presented the work plan of the Programme of Action to their governing bodies and had received their endorsement.

31. The UNEP representative referred to the need to accelerate the process of implementation of the Programme of Action, and informed the Committee of the decision of the UNEP Governing Council at its recent session, in which the Council called upon Governments to intensify their efforts within the governing bodies of other United Nations organizations to ensure that the necessary mandate and financial resources for the development of the clearing-house mechanism be made available. He also informed the Committee that the Executive Director of UNEP would shortly be announcing the designation of a new head of the Programme of Action Coordination Office at The Hague, and was prioritizing the need to further enhance efforts for its implementation. The Committee underscored the need for further and effective collaboration between the two Subcommittees since the Programme of Action cut across the competence of both bodies. UNEP would be presenting a proposal concerning the specific roles to be played by respective lead agencies within these areas which could

provide the basis for this. The Committee agreed that the new head of the Coordination Office should organize a joint meeting between the Chairs and secretariats of both ACC Subcommittees with a view to clarifying responsibilities and giving added impetus to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

32. In concluding its discussion of the report, the FAO representative noted his agency's lead role in developing an electronic United Nations atlas of the oceans, and reminded participants that core organizations in this project (the International Maritime Organization, UNESCO/IOC, UNEP, UNDP, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Meteorological Organization) should provide additional information on their contributions (in cash or in kind) to FAO as soon as possible. The representative of UNESCO noted that such joint activities of a substantive nature were very welcome, and indicated that the newly elected Chairman of the Subcommittee intended to pursue further work in this regard. He also expressed his appreciation to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for its work in preparing the report of the Secretary-General on oceans to be submitted to the Commission, for which the Subcommittee had been designated IACSD task manager.

## **G. Other matters**

### **Guidelines for national action**

33. The Committee reviewed the status report on the work related to guidelines in the following areas: (a) national sustainable development strategies; (b) an integrated approach to land and water management; (c) integration of sustainability concerns in national fiscal instruments; (d) sustainable tourism and (e) local sustainable development initiatives.

34. It welcomed the progress made in identifying characteristics, by the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources, particularly by the task force on sustainable development strategies, towards developing guidelines for integrated approaches to land and water management, and by Habitat in following up on the results of the survey conducted in relation to local sustainable development initiatives. The Committee encouraged the continuation of the work on guidelines, and noted that there was in some cases a need for additional resources for that purpose. It endorsed, in particular, the direction for future work outlined by Habitat, to continue to monitor local initiatives, to broaden the scope of inventory to include non-United Nations system actors and to deepen analysis, with the emphasis on enhancing

complementarity and mutual support of the ongoing activities. The Committee also underlined the importance of strengthening links between national and local actions. With regard to integrating sustainability concerns in national fiscal instruments, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs announced a correction to paragraph 11 of document ACC/IACSD/XIII/1999/CRP.7 to note that no new initiatives on the work of the guidelines had been reported by agencies. This reflected the complexity of the issue that would require a substantive amount of further conceptual work. The Department requested the cooperation of IACSD members to reconsider the future course of action on this theme.

35. The representative of Habitat, in presenting the inventory of guidelines for local sustainable development initiatives (ACC/IACSD/XIII/1999/CRP.9), noted that there were five areas for further development in this area: broadening the inventory; deepening analysis and reporting; providing operational relevant reports; using modern media; and mobilizing required resources and partnerships. The Committee welcomed this innovative approach, and reconfirmed its commitment and interest in cooperating further in this endeavour.

### **Preparations for the special meeting of the Economic and Social Council on development indicators**

36. The Director of the United Nations Statistical Division briefed the Committee on the 1998 decision by the Economic and Social Council to organize an informal Council session in May 1999 with panels of experts to consider in a comprehensive manner the work being carried out by the United Nations system and other relevant international and national institutions on basic indicators to measure progress towards the implementation of the integrated and coordinated follow-up of all aspects of the major United Nations conference summits. The Division, he noted, was in the process of preparing a report for this informal Council session, the contents of which were now being discussed by an expert working group currently meeting in New York. The working group will make suggestions for revising the report prior to its submission to the Council. At the same time, the Division is preparing an inventory of development indicators which will be posted on the Internet and provide meta-data on various development indicator initiatives. All of these efforts are intended to lead to better coordination, harmonization and rationalization of indicator efforts within the United Nations system to avoid duplication of indicator efforts and overburdening national level data-collection efforts.

### **Draft Joint Inspection Unit review of ACC and its subsidiary machinery**

37. The Chairman noted that the draft review of ACC and its subsidiary machinery had previously been circulated to members, and that some organizations had already provided comments on it. The Committee noted that the Joint Inspection Unit recommendation that the policy recommendations of IACSD and IACWGE should feed into CCPOQ was in line with its own discussions held on the expansion of the task managers system (see paras. 4–7 above). The Committee would also expect that CCPOQ would bring to its attention outcomes relevant to IACSD work. It was further noted that the report was technical and process oriented, and did not contain an adequate substantive analysis of the work done by the various ACC subsidiary bodies. It was noted, in particular, that the work of the task managers system had not been adequately reflected. The Committee was informed by the secretariat that these views would be incorporated into the coordinated response being prepared to the report by the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs.

### **World Conference on Science**

38. The representative of UNESCO informed the Committee on the state of preparations for the World Conference on Science co-organized by UNESCO and the International Council of Scientific Unions, to take place at Budapest from 26 June to 1 July 1999. He expressed UNESCO's appreciation to the many agencies and organizations that were contributing to the Conference.

### **Five-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Hague Forum**

39. The representative of UNFPA expressed her organization's appreciation to those member United Nations agencies and organizations which, through their participation, had helped in making the Hague Forum a success in assessing achievements and constraints since ICPD. She also pointed out that during that meeting, the relationship between population and environment and sustainable development was an area that had been identified as one in which further work needed to be undertaken. UNFPA is reaching out to member partners to undertake collaborative work in this area, and invites a greater exchange of information and advice from IACSD members in this regard.

## **Annex I**

### **Agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda and timetable.
2. Follow-up to the outcome of meetings of:
  - (a) ACC;
  - (b) Intergovernmental bodies:
    - (i) General Assembly;
    - (ii) UNEP Governing Council decision on the views of the Governing Council on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements.
3. Matters related to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development.
4. Cooperation in the energy area: preparation for energy discussions in 2001.
5. Strengthening of United Nations system coverage of waste management issues.
6. Status of Development Watch.
7. Reports of subsidiary bodies reporting to IACSD:
  - (a) Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources on its nineteenth session (Beirut, 29 September–1 October 1998);
  - (b) Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas on its seventh session (Monaco, 8 to 10 February 1999).
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report.

## Annex II

### List of participants

*Chairman:* N. Desai (United Nations)

*Secretary:* K. Gerlach (United Nations)

#### United Nations, its entities and programmes

##### United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

J. DiSano  
L. Flanders  
S. Arungu-Olende  
K. N. Mak  
M. P. Silveira  
A. Vasilyev  
H. Morita-Lou

Regional Commissions New York Office

C. Kassangana

United Nations Development Programme

K. Jorgensen

United Nations Environment Programme

A. Amin  
M. Jansen

United Nations Population Fund

M. Nizamuddin  
C. Pierce  
V. Ponniah

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

J. Eigen

#### Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organization

F. Lisk  
A. Pastiu

Food and Agriculture Organization of the  
United Nations

A. Dejene

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural  
Organization

G. Glaser

World Health Organization

Y. E. R. Von Schirnding

International Monetary Fund

H. Schugarman  
A. Rubin

World Meteorological Organization

D. D. C. Don Nanjira

World Intellectual Property Organization

R. Owens  
O. Fasehun

United Nations Industrial Development  
Organization

R. C. Sersale de Cerisano  
H. H. Bahlouli

\* \* \*

International Atomic Energy Agency	M. Opelz
* * *	
ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas	A. Rogers
ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources	M. Dengo
* * *	
United Nations University	J. Fomerand
* * *	
Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	J. Pasztor
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity	S. Arico
Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa	R. Boulharouf
* * *	
<b>Observers</b>	
Global Environment Facility	S. Li

## Annex III

### List of documents

ACC/IACSD/XIII/1999/CRP.1	Annotated provisional agenda
ACC/IACSD/XIII/1999/CRP.2	Timetable
ACC/IACSD/XIII/1999/CRP.3	Follow-up to meetings of ACC: expansion of the task manager system, discussion paper prepared by the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat
ACC/IACSD/XIII/1999/CRP.4	Follow-up to the outcomes of the meetings of intergovernmental bodies: fifty-third session of the General Assembly, background paper prepared by the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat
ACC/IACSD/XIII/1999/CRP.5	United Nations system-wide work plan on energy for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, background paper prepared by the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat
ACC/IACSD/XIII/1999/CRP.6	Report on the status of Development Watch, paper prepared by UNDP
ACC/IACSD/XIII/1999/CRP.7	Guidelines for national action, paper compiled by the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat
ACC/IACSD/XIII/1999/CRP.8	Strengthening United Nations system coverage of waste management issues: survey of ongoing activities and readiness to collaborate, paper prepared by Habitat
ACC/IACSD/XIII/1999/CRP.9	Inventory of guidelines for local sustainable development initiatives, progress report prepared by Habitat

## **Annex IV**

### **Provisional agenda for the fourteenth meeting**

1. Adoption of agenda and timetable.
  2. Follow-up to the outcome of meetings of:
    - (a) ACC;
    - (b) Intergovernmental bodies.
  3. Preparations for the eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.
  4. Follow-up to matters relating to the expansion of the task managers' system.
  5. Cooperation in the energy area: preparations for energy discussion in 2001.
  6. Reports of subsidiary bodies reporting to IACSD.
  7. Other matters.
  8. Adoption of the report.
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