

TOPICS 10 AND 11

NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION

- (1) The proper management and utilization of the natural resources of a country and the conservation of the environment in the achievement of social satisfaction and economic development are the primary responsibilities of the government.
- (2) The wise utilization of natural resources and human settlements in a country requires the maintenance of environmental quality for generations to come, based on a sense of responsibility for curbing man's destructive forces and using his creative powers.
- (3) At the national level there is a need for the establishment of both an administrative and implemental infrastructure which is suitable for the proper consideration of environmental problems. At the level of implementation, it may be necessary to organize a system based on the concept of coordination and cooperation between governmental and nongovernmental bodies responsible for certain aspects of the environmental field.
- (4) Much still must be learned about the quality, quantity, and precise location of the natural resources in the developing world, and institutional arrangements are urgently needed for research on inventory, evaluation, exploitation, and technology of the resources, as well as the conservation of the environment.
- (5) Each country must know the implications (with respect to the conservation of natural resources and the environment) of the plans for developing the region. Each country must also establish the criteria, regulations, and models needed to preserve the quality of the environment with regard to the utilization of natural resources, agricultural development, river basin development, pest control, industrial planning, human settlement planning, etc.
- (6) The problems of environment and development in their institutional setting have been sufficiently studied, and the suggested ways of coping with these complex and interdisciplinary problems require urgent action.
- (7) Due consideration must be given to the Canberra I report on "Environmental Problems in the Developing Countries," especially with reference to items 38-42, which deal with "Institutional Arrangements" (doc. A/CONF. 48/10 Annex II, pp. 13-14).

- (8) The papers presented and the discussions of them considered
 - (a) That the main factors preventing the conservation of the environment and the proper management and utilization of natural resources are educational, cultural, scientific, technological, and political (administrative, legal, economic), and that these could be solved in the developing regions through proper governmental action.
 - (b) That to study the quality, extent, location, exploitation, and utilization of natural resources would require a strenuous effort and represent a task nearly impossible for the developing countries to accomplish at this time.
 - (c) That most of the problems concerning the environment and the proper utilization of natural resources could be solved through coordinate and cooperative arrangements on the national, regional, and international levels.

It is thus recommended:

- (1) That each developing country have a structure at the highest national level to coordinate environmental and natural resources research; to seek expert advice on pertinent laws and regulations; to provide assistance to national institutional research and training; to advise on educational matters related to the environmental sciences; and to serve as a liaison body in matters of regional and international cooperation and coordination.
- (2) That each government establish a multidisciplinary National Council on Environmental Planning (NCEP) made up of government and non-government scientists who would advise on all matters concerning the environmental aspects of development; the NCEP should have authority to review and advise on the environmental impact of all proposed economic developments or major land use changes and should meet regularly with the decision-making authorities.
- (3) That the UN, through its several agencies, facilitate and encourage, in every appropriate way, the establishment or strengthening of permanent institutional arrangements on national, regional, or international levels in the developing world to survey natural resources; study and establish proper techniques for their evaluation, conservation, management, and utilization; study local environmental problems; and train and develop local natural resource scientists and technicians as well as experts on the conservation of the environment.
- (4) That as a first step, national agencies in collaboration with UNEP, UNESCO, and other organizations, undertake through special committees the preparation of a detailed and up-to-date inventory of existing institutions in the developing regions which could be used as teaching, training, and research centers.
- (5) That UN agencies or other organizations provide financial and technical assistance to establish institutional arrangements in order to help developing countries to become scientifically and technologically self-sufficient in the study of their environment; wherever possible, UN

experts should be recruited from nationals currently working on similar projects in developed countries.

- (6) That each country or countries with similar environmental conditions should establish demonstration centers for education and training in relation to land use and management and their effects on the environment. Such centers should conduct experiments on (a) the effects of land use practices on the environment; (b) the effects of erosion, pollution, and degradation of land; (c) the long term effects of overgrazing, fire, shifting cultivation, and pastoralism on the land; and (4) the effects of pesticides, fungicides, fertilizers, and other agro-chemicals on the environment, particularly on water, air, soil, plants, animal life, and man.
- (7) That in each region or sub-region, the developing countries with common problems concerning the environmental aspects of development should be encouraged to establish or strengthen regional centers, joint programs, and continuous consultation, and to create the appropriate mechanisms for conducting research activities in a cooperative way (particularly in the areas of natural resources, ecosystems, pollution problems, and rational use of the environment), requesting, when necessary, technical and financial assistance from national and/or international organizations; similar arrangements should be made concerning education and training at all levels in matters related to environmental sciences.
- (8) That UNEP, through its Information Referral System (IRS) and with the UNESCO science information exchange system, provide an exchange of information on current and programmed activities which should be readily available to all developing countries; technical and financial assistance should be provided in educating and training those who collect, interpret, and use the data for the IRS input-output system.
- (9) That the developing countries should create an institution to carry out studies on all aspects of human settlements, urban and rural. The UN, through its specialized agencies, is urged to channel technical and financial assistance through these institutions. The fund should provide assistance commensurate with the requirements of growth of settlement systems, and for improving the quality of life in existing settlements, particularly the squatter areas.
- (10) That sub-regional or regional centers should be established in developing countries to conserve and develop genetic resources as part of the global program.
- (11) That the developing countries be assisted in the location of industries by an international program for locating industries as a consequence of the environmental concerns of the industrialized countries.
- (12) That the developing countries be assisted in expanding their trade in finished and processed goods made of natural products rather than the synthetic products which generate greater environmentally negative effects.

- (13) That regional and sub-regional centers of interdisciplinary theoretical and prediction studies on the relationships between population and demographic factors and the availability of resources in the context of other sectors and the totality of the environment be initiated and expanded; technical assistance and training should be provided to incorporate these findings into development planning.
- (14) That UNEP, in particular cooperation with national governments, the UNDP Resident Representatives in the Less Developed Countries (LDC's) of the Third World, and the UN and non-governmental regional and international organizations, should take the initiative in forming in each LDC a National Committee of NGO's (non-governmental organizations) on Human Environment and eventually, Regional (or sub-regional) Committees of NGO's on Human Environment, comprising countries within the jurisdiction of the UN economic commissions. These Committees (or their sub-committees) would be concerned with all 15 sectors of the UNEP program, but especially with the problems of development which are inseparable from those of the environment.
- (15) That the National and Regional Committees should establish and strengthen links of coordination among their constituent professional and activist NGO's in order to mobilize all people in support of the developmental and environmental action programs of their governments and the UN system.
- (16) That the governments, the UN, and non-governmental regional and international organizations should support the National and Regional Committees financially and otherwise, while taking care that their freedom, as independent sources of professional opinion and as citizen action groups, is not compromised.
- (17) That UNEP, UNDP, governments, and other UN agencies or organizations should involve the National and Regional Committees in the planning and implementation of action programs, whether funded nationally or internationally, within the recognized constraints imposed on participation of NGO's in governmental and inter-governmental activities.
- (18) That UNEP and other UN regional and international organizations should grant consultant status to the National and Regional Committees at the appropriate levels to ensure and improve communication between the NGO's of the LDC's and the UN system; and provide them financial and other forms of assistance to enable them to participate in the regional and international UN conferences and meetings.
- (19) That the UN international and regional organizations, and particularly the international, regional, and national NGO's of the developed countries cooperate with the National and Regional Committees: (a) to mobilize the systems of education, information, and mass communication in the developed countries in order to create empathy for the predicament of mankind in the LDC's, to strengthen the political will for new policies and programs of external trade, development assis-

tance, etc., and to bring about a redistribution in the use of world resources; and (b) to mobilize the resources and institutions for research and development in the developed countries, in collaboration with the scholars and institutions in the LDC's, to focus on the problems of LDC's in environment, development, and transfer of technology.