

(c) Examine the sources, benefits, risks and other considerations relevant to production and use;

(d) Evaluate the availability, including costs and effectiveness, of preferable substitutes, where applicable;

(e) Assess realistic response strategies, policies and mechanisms for reducing and/or eliminating emissions, discharges and losses of persistent organic pollutants; in undertaking these tasks, the circumstances of developing countries and countries with economies in transition should be taken into account;

2. Invites, based on the results of this process and the outcome of the Washington Conference, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety to develop recommendations and information on international action, including such information as would be needed for a possible decision regarding an appropriate international legal mechanism on persistent organic pollutants, to be considered by the Governing Council and the World Health Assembly no later than in 1997;

3. Requests the Executive Director to support the work of this process, as necessary;

4. Calls on States, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, regional organizations and other relevant organizations to participate actively and provide contributions both for the assessment process and for the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/33. International coral reef initiative

The Governing Council,

Noting that many of the world's coral reefs are severely degraded or destroyed owing to human activities,

Recalling that chapter 17 of Agenda 21 1/ identifies coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds as marine ecosystems of high biological diversity and production and recommends that they be accorded high priority for identification and protection,

Noting the report of the United Nations Environment Programme-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission-Association of South Pacific Environmental Institutions-World Conservation Union Global Task Team on the Implications of Climate Change on Coral Reefs, 61/

Also noting that coral reefs have been designated as the coastal system chosen as the first to be developed within the coastal zone module of the Global Ocean Observing System,

61/ C. R. Wilkinson and R. W. Buddemeier, Global Climate Change and Coral Reefs: Implications for People and Reefs. Report of the UNEP-IOC-ASP-EI-IUCN Global Task Team on the Implications of Climate Change on Coral Reefs (Gland, Switzerland, IUCN, 1994).

Recognizing the initiative of Australia, France, Jamaica, Japan, the Philippines, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to sponsor a workshop to promote an international coral reef initiative, to be held in the Philippines from 29 May to 2 June 1995,

Noting that the initiative builds upon and reflects the processes established by the Commission on Sustainable Development, which will address chapter 17 of Agenda 21 in 1996, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, 58/ which will address marine biological diversity in 1995, the 1995 intergovernmental meetings on protection of the marine environment from land-based activities, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 36/ the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 28/ and other relevant international programmes,

1. Welcomes the international coral reef initiative, which is a partnership of Governments, international organizations (including lending institutions) and non-governmental organizations, to address capacity-building, research and monitoring and sustainable management and use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems;

2. Supports the establishment of a global coral reef monitoring network, as proposed as part of the coastal zone and shelf module of the Global Ozone Observing System by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Conservation Union, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, within existing resources, to monitor the status of reefs and enhance their management;

3. Encourages the regional programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme, particularly the regional seas programmes, to incorporate the recommendations of the coral reef initiative workshop, as appropriate, into relevant United Nations Environment Programme activities and, whenever appropriate, to translate them into concrete supporting measures on protection and conservation;

4. Encourages the continued participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the international coral reef initiative, particularly the international coral reef initiative planning committee, regional meetings and the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1996.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/34. Support from the United Nations Environment Programme for small island developing States and implementation of the Programme of Action of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The Governing Council,

Recalling chapter 17 of Agenda 21, 1/ which recognized the particular vulnerabilities, both ecological and economic, of small island developing States