



UNITED NATIONS NON-GOVERNMENTAL LIAISON SERVICE/NGLS

Commission on Sustainable Development, Seventh Session

INTRODUCTION

The seventh session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-7) was held at UN headquarters in New York from 19-30 April. Dynamically chaired by Simon Upton (New Zealand), the commission considered the sectoral theme of oceans and seas, the economic theme of tourism, and the cross-sectoral theme of consumption and production patterns. The commission also met in a Preparatory Commission (PrepCom) session to prepare for the UN General Assembly Special Session to review the Programme of Action (POA) of the 1994 Barbados Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The reports of the Intersessional Working Groups (ISWGs) on possible elements for draft CSD outcomes served as the basis for negotiations, as did the chair's summary of the Tourism Segment and background reports prepared by the UN Secretary-General. The ISWG Co-Chairs played a proactive role this year in selecting the key elements for decisions from the overall discussions, however, steering the outcomes away from rehearsals of agreed positions.

The commission carried out its work in plenary, in three drafting groups, and informals, negotiating 13 decisions, 12 of which were adopted. Drafting Group I, chaired by Navid Hanif (Pakistan), considered tourism and consumption and production patterns. Drafting Group II, chaired by Sandor Mozes (Hungary), broke into two sub-groups, one chaired by Alan Simcock (United Kingdom) considering oceans and seas, and the other chaired by John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda) on preparations for the GA Special Session on SIDS. Drafting Group II, chaired by George Talbot (Guyana), considered preparations for CSD-9 in 2001 on the issue of energy and other matters. A high-level segment of the commission met from the afternoon of 21 April to 23 April, giving ministers as well as representatives from international and non-governmental organizations an opportunity to exchange views.

An innovative aspect of the CSD-7 was the convening from 19-21 April of a multi-stakeholder dialogue, the Tourism Segment. Representatives from governments, local authorities, industry, trade unions, NGOs and the

other Major Groups identified in Agenda 21 met in four dialogue sessions to discuss industry initiatives, consumer behavior, sustainable development and coastal impacts related to tourism.

At a press briefing at the conclusion of the CSD-7, Mr Upton noted that tourism and sustainable development had not been tackled before in the commission, and it had therefore not been bound by previous decisions. Good recommendations had been produced by the commission, he said, particularly those emerging from the multi-stakeholder dialogue, Tourism Segment.

Also of great importance, according to the chair, was the commission's recommendation that the General Assembly (GA) establish an open-ended informal consultative process to keep under consideration the aspects and issues identified in the CSD's discussion of oceans and seas. While this decision appeared procedural in nature, the chair felt it was a significant step forward because it called upon governments and the international community to consider and deal with a host of marine issues in a coordinated rather than fragmented manner for the first time.

Mr Upton identified three issues on which the commission failed to reach agreement: the question of subsidies related to fisheries, estimated at some US\$20 billion a year; the provision of consumer information on fishing; and the transport and transit of hazardous waste across oceans and seas. However, he said, the failure to reach agreement could be seen positively in that a much more credible document had emerged because no attempt had been made to reach a "lowest common denominator" consensus. The most important thing that the commission had done, in the chair's view, in terms of the "big picture," was to state right up front that the two most pressing decisions facing the oceans were overfishing and land-based sources of pollution. Those were unequivocal priorities, he said.

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

The High-Level Segment met from 21-23 April. Deliberations took the form of statements by high-level

government officials, followed by interactive dialogues. Eighty-nine government ministers participated in the high-level segment, more than in any previous commission session, and discussed the four substantive areas: oceans and seas, consumption and production patterns, small island developing states (SIDS) and sustainable tourism (see document E/CN.17/1999/L.4 add.1).

During discussion of tourism, representatives of industry highlighted the economic and developmental benefits. UN Deputy Secretary-General Louise Fréchette warned that tourism could lead to economic and environmental hazards unless it was properly planned and managed. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), chose the middle path reflected in much of the outcome, noting that while tourism was part of the problem, it could become part of the solution to sustainable development.

During discussion on oceans and seas, topics included the importance of addressing illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. A precautionary and ecosystem-based approach to fisheries was stressed, with NGOs calling on global and regional fisheries organizations to rescue by-catch of non-target species of fish and other forms of wildlife. Regarding the need for international coordination on oceans, many speakers stressed the need for institutional renewal, not new institutions. The GA was the appropriate forum for intergovernmental deliberations, many said, but its annual debate on oceans and seas should be broader and more substantive.

When the high-level segment took up consumption and production patterns, global inequities in consumption patterns, and cultural and economic influences were among the topics discussed. Many speakers noted that while much of the production occurred in industrialized countries, the poorest regions often were hardest hit by the related environmental impacts.

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Bureau

The CSD-7 was chaired by Simon Upton (New Zealand). Vice-Chairs were Tibor Farago (Sweden), George Talbot (Guyana), Navid Hanif (Pakistan), and Largent Ouattara (Côte d'Ivoire), who also served as Rapporteur.

Members

The current members of the commission are: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Gabon, Germany, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Mauritius, Mauritania, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Venezuela, United Kingdom, United States and Zimbabwe.

A number of governments stressed the importance of transfer and promotion of environmentally friendly technology. James Gustave Speth, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), called for states to put economic incentives in place to make eco-technology available to developing countries. He drew attention to the UNDP initiative on Poverty and Environment, highlighting the possibilities of technological innovations that should be transferred to developing countries.

With regard to guidelines on consumer protection, some countries suggested developing guidelines on consumption and production patterns for the media and advertising industry, others proposed eco-labelling to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns. NGOs encouraged delegates to adopt proposed extensions to the guidelines. Industry said they did not believe sustainable consumption and production should be included in the guidelines. The chair asked if industry was making efforts to make businesses sustainable, and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) noted that it was targeting small- and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries. The chair asked the ICC to update CSD-8 in 2000 on its efforts.

SIDS PREPCOM

The CSD convened on 23 and 30 April as the preparatory commission (PrepCom) for the UN General Assembly Special Session to review implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, taking place from 27-28 September. The high-level segment met on 23 April to discuss the Barbados POA's implementation, difficulties met, lessons learned, and suggested elements for the Special Session's outcome. There were two primary areas of contention: whether the SIDS are entitled to special status under free trade rules because of their vulnerability, and whether SIDS should have the right to prohibit the transport of hazardous substances and nuclear materials through waters around their territory.

Many speakers voiced concern about the adverse effects of globalization and trade liberalization, and called for the development of a vulnerability index. New Zealand called on the UN to recognize vulnerability as a least developed country (LDC) criterion to enable SIDS to benefit from concessional financing. Samoa, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), noted that the "challenges of globalization and trade liberalization, in particular the erosion of trade preferences, have seriously undermined our ability to compete effectively within the international trading system. The threat of marginalization, compounded by vulnerabilities, including fragile environments and susceptibility to natural disasters, have hampered our efforts to achieve sustainable development," Samoa said. Guyana, on behalf of the Group of 77 developing countries and China (G-77) expressed support for the AOSIS position, and highlighted the need for "special approaches to improve cooperation to promote sustainable development for small islands." In this regard it supported a recent initiative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), elaborated by Barbados, on the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area in the Context of Sustainable Development.

The SIDS NGO Caucus pointed out that "changing markets being imposed on the economies of SIDS have forced the closure of preferential markets...Parallel to this phenomenon is the marked increase in the reliance on agro-chemicals and high input technology in order to increase local productivity. These market trends are not in best interests of long-term sustainability."

The European Union (EU) said that it would undertake "considerable efforts to ensure that the successor Convention to Lomé," which it considers to be the centrepiece of its cooperation with SIDS, "as well as the Millennium Round of multilateral negotiations under the WTO [World Trade Organization] on international trade will further reduce the remaining trade barriers and provide SIDS with a more secure access to export markets for their products." The EU also said that "consideration should be given to developing partnerships with the private sector, in order to increase the flow of much-needed private investment finance and technology transfer." It noted, however, that "sound macro-economic and political framework conditions are needed to provide the necessary incentives for productive, environmentally sound investments from national and international sources, including in sectors such as transport and telecommunications."

The US does not support any special treatment of SIDS under trade laws, and recommended provision of technical assistance in diversifying island economies instead. Along with the EU and China, the US also opposed restriction on transport of nuclear materials through international waters, even though the paragraph proposed for the special session text had been taken directly from the Barbados POA. Speaking for the EU, Germany said five years had passed since the language had been approved in Barbados, and that there had been significant developments since, which should be reflected. Other speakers, including the NGO Caucus on SIDS, expressed dismay about the debate over previously accepted language, and noted that the purpose of the special session was to review implementation of the document, not change it. As the commission closed, the paragraph remained bracketed (denoting disagreement), to be taken up again in September.

Samoa, on behalf of AOSIS, cited examples of progress that SIDS have made since the Barbados conference, including coral reef and fisheries initiatives, planning for adaptation to climate change, tourism plans and regulations, legislation on waste, and ratification and implementation of the climate change and biodiversity conventions. Samoa noted the decline in "overall disbursements to small islands, bilateral and multilateral combined," however. It highlighted the "need for international support and for urgent and targeted action" regarding critical environmental issues, including "the provision of effective technical and financial support...for programmes and projects targeted at capacity building, institutional building and the transfer of environmentally sound technology."

A revised draft of the chair's compilation document on the CSD's Contribution to the Special Session as well as a Draft Declaration resulted from mostly informal consultations during the CSD-7. The compilation document (see *Final Report of the Commission*, E/1999/29), entitled *State of Progress and Initiatives for the Future Implementation of the POA* is divided into four sections: an introduction; sectoral areas requiring urgent action; means of

implementation; and international cooperation and partnership. The introduction reaffirms the commitment of the international community to the continued implementation of the POA and identifies the following areas for priority action, including the means for their implementation: climate change, including climate variability and sea level rise; natural disasters; freshwater resources; coastal and marine resources; energy; and tourism. The strong sense of commitment and ownership of the POA by SIDS is emphasized and noted for contributing to enriching the partnership between SIDS and the international community. Their small size and remoteness, ecological fragility, vulnerability to climate change, narrow resource base and small domestic markets are highlighted as specific constraints faced by SIDS.

The pace of globalization and trade liberalization is noted as affecting SIDS' economies by presenting new problems and opportunities. Trade impacts are highlighted as critical to determine the success or failure of SIDS in their national efforts to implement the POA. Bracketed text refers to: SIDS benefiting from globalization; assistance to SIDS to adapt to globalization and trade liberalization and facilitating SIDS economic integration into the world economy through enhanced market access for their exports; enhancing SIDS' effective participation in multilateral trade negotiations and activities including the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanisms; and recognition of the adverse consequences for SIDS of the erosion of trade preferences. While the need for a vulnerability index for SIDS on socio-economic and environmental parameters is noted, bracketed text refers to the vulnerability index to supplement other criteria for access by SIDS to concessional "treatment/financing."

The Draft Declaration reaffirms the principles of and commitments to sustainable development embodied in the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, and reaffirms that the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of SIDS translated Agenda 21 into specific policies and measures. Bracketed text appears on enabling SIDS to address constraints and on specific physical circumstances that create difficulties for SIDS in benefiting from global economic development and achieving sustainable development. Accelerated progress in the implementation of the POA through strengthened capacity building, financing and technology transfer is called for. With regard to participation in the GA Special Session, the PrepCom decided that the President of the Special Session may invite intergovernmental organizations that have a clear and relevant interest in SIDS to make statements. NGOs may also make statements, and those who cannot be accommodated may make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

TOURISM

The commission decided to adopt an international work programme on sustainable tourism development, urging governments to take action, including through legislation, against illegal, abusive or exploitative tourism activity, including sexual exploitation and abuse. The text also urged governments to consult with all Major Groups and local communities in the tourism development process, including on sharing of benefits. It called on the tourism industry to work towards guiding principles and

objectives for sustainable tourism and to take steps to reduce the volume of waste associated with tourist travel. The work programme will be reviewed in 2002 when the 10-year review of progress achieved since the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) will be carried out.

The commission invited governments, Major Groups and the UN system to work to increase the benefits from tourism for the host communities, help them maintain cultural and environmental integrity, encourage more responsible behaviour among tourists, and to recognize the potential for integration of Local Agenda 21s with Agenda 21 for the travel and tourism industry. It invited the UN secretariat and the World Tourism Organization to facilitate the establishment of an ad hoc informal open-ended working group on tourism to assess financial leakages and determine how to maximize benefits for indigenous and local communities, and to consider Major Group participation in developing, implementing and monitoring a Global Code of Ethics for Tourism. NGOs have advocated for the inclusion of specific reference to tourism in national sustainable development strategies for the 2002 review.

The commission also invited relevant agencies, particularly the International Maritime Organization (IMO), to evaluate whether existing regulations on marine pollution are sufficient to provide adequate protection to fragile coastal zones from the adverse impact of tourist vessel activities. The Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was invited to consider international guidelines for activities related to sustainable tourism development in vulnerable terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems and habitats of major importance for biological diversity, protected areas and mountain systems.

There were differing views on the standards, nature and scope of guidelines and the timing of their implementation. It was decided that it would be premature for a global code of ethics, so participants agreed on text to enforce, as appropriate, standards relevant to the tourism industry. On the role of international organizations, delegates also differed in their proposals on the role of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in setting labour and health standards. Delegates did not achieve a consensus definition on the concepts of sustainable tourism and ecotourism and called for further clarification of these concepts.

On behalf of the G-77/China, Guyana highlighted the need for investment in skills development and financial resources to eradicate poverty, as well as the international commitments of Agenda 21 to transfer technology. It deplored attempts to "put developing countries on an equal footing with developed countries regarding limiting and reducing production and consumption."

Speaking on behalf of the EU, Germany said that "governments must create an appropriate legal, economic, social and environmental framework and use a mix of instruments, such as integrated land use, coastal zone management, and economic and tax incentives." The EU also emphasized the need for governments to take "firm responsibility for combatting sex tourism and child abuse

by enacting and enforcing effective protection laws," and highlighted its own efforts in this regard.

Tourism Segment

National and local authorities, industry (represented by a large transnational "umbrella group"), trade unions, and NGOs (represented by the NGO CSD Steering Committee), participated in four dialogue sessions on tourism held from 19-21 April (see *Chairman's Summary*, E/CN-17/1999/L.4 add.7).

Opening the dialogue on Industry Initiatives for Sustainable Tourism, Chair Simon Upton called for focused interventions that emphasized industry initiatives and involvement. He underscored baseline information against which progress could be measured and noted its importance in assessing carrying capacity, especially for the SIDS. He also stressed that information for benchmarking and indicators had to be generated by all stakeholders.

NGOs welcomed industry initiatives but said they must fit into a broader context. They called for socio-cultural criteria and appealed to industry to utilize information from non-market sources and develop criteria, indicators and best practice cases. They invited the CSD to finalize indicators for sustainable tourism with multi-stakeholder participation and transparency.

Mr Upton noted strong agreement on the importance of indicators, whose elaboration the CSD could oversee. Local authorities favoured voluntary initiatives but said they were supplemental to regulation. Trade unions underscored the need for further consideration of benchmarking. Industry emphasized that if the Major Groups were able to reach agreement on recommended actions they would expect strong support from the CSD and governments to implement them.

The dialogue session on Changing Consumer Behaviour focused on education and certification. Trade unions noted that they have existing structures for educating workers, but proposed that tourists learn about labour disputes at places they patronize. Local authorities noted that tourist businesses may also require education. They proposed influencing behaviour with financial incentives and punitive pricing. Industry cited the importance of consistency and continuity in educational efforts. NGOs felt that issues concerning tourism, gender and conservation should be appropriately covered by the major media. They also suggested building consumer advocacy capacity.

With regard to certification and other industry activities, industry agreed with NGOs that certification processes should include criteria for education. NGOs recommended establishing minimum standards to ensure proper certification. They also said that consumers need to be educated on the meaning of different eco-labels, emphasizing that eco-labels should deal with social, cultural and economic issues as well as environmental ones. They stressed the importance of involving those affected in the development of guidelines for consumer behaviour. Several speakers raised the Global Code of Ethics currently being developed by the World Tourism Organization, with NGOs calling for an inclusive drafting process.

During the session on Promoting Broad-Based Sustainable Development Through Tourism While Safeguarding the Integrity of Local Cultures, industry expressed support for: indicators of sustainability that reflect market and non-market elements; employee and consumer awareness programmes with multi-stakeholder input and funding; and certification programmes based on ISO standards and the Agenda 21 for Travel and Tourism. Trade unions said that their effective participation in sustainable tourism was based on workers' ability to participate in the workplace and be involved in planning and implementation. Local authorities said maintenance of resources used by tourists should be supported by industry, and endorsed a new steady-state model for tourism where growth is limited. NGOs stressed the need for informed participation of local communities and indigenous peoples if tourism is to be sustainable. "International trade agreements are not discussed or debated by the people who will be affected by such agreements," a representative of Equations (India) said. "They are geared to the industry and governments, yet are implemented at the local level. This undermines and threatens the autonomy and participation of local communities and indigenous peoples." In this regard, NGOs stressed concerns about the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) overseen by the World Trade Organization, which aims at increasing liberalization in several areas of travel and tourism services. They suggested amending article XIX.2 of the GATS to take account of the general and special needs of local communities and regions in the liberalization process as well as national political goals and level of development of individual member states.

Mr Upton acknowledged the evident collision between the WTO on the one hand and sustainable development, Agenda 21 and local development on the other in his report on the outcome of the dialogue sessions.

All the Major Groups expressed support for pilot projects on sustainable tourism in coastal areas during the dialogue on Coastal Impacts of Tourism. Industry said that tourism is crucial for coastal zone development and should be accorded a high profile in the context of integrated coastal zone management. Trade unions supported the multi-stakeholder approach, the role of local authorities and communities, and voluntary initiatives as being supplemental to regulatory frameworks. Local authorities noted the usefulness of setting environmentally or culturally sensitive sites aside from tourism development and underscored that hotel and land developers should be responsible for their projects' infrastructure costs. They emphasized that there are limits to growth.

In an impassioned speech, the Mayor of Honolulu, Hawaii (United States) said that "the level of tourist activity allowed in an area should be determined by the area's carrying capacity, that is the type and amount of activity that can occur without degrading the local ecological or cultural systems. Regulations should be established and strictly enforced to keep these activities within sustainable bounds," he said. "For coastal tourism to be sustainable we must shift from a 'growth'-based economic model—one that requires a continual increase in the number of tourists and the expansion of tourist facilities—to a 'steady state'-based economic model that accommodates a set limit for tourism development that is within the carrying capacity of the local environmental and social

system...The critical task," he noted, "is to develop a process, a mechanism, to facilitate cooperation and consensus building."

On behalf of NGOs, the representative of the Dominican Conservation Association agreed, saying that regulatory frameworks should be set at the local level and that tourism development should be planned by municipal, industrial and agricultural interests to minimize conflicting activities. NGOs noted that voluntary initiatives should be supplemental to regulatory frameworks and cited the importance of partnership between industry, government and other stakeholders in implementing regulations.

Speakers also underscored the impacts of cruise ships on coastal areas and discussed their use of "flags of convenience" (FOCs), noting that such flags should not be used to avoid international regulations on marine pollution and proposing that the CSD advise relevant international organizations to investigate enforcement of these regulations and address loopholes.

OCEANS AND SEAS

By the text on oceans and seas, the commission called on governments to strengthen national, regional and international action for developing integrated approaches to oceans and coastal area management. It emphasized that the sustainable use of the oceans and seas was threatened by overexploitation of marine living resources and by pollution. It recommended that priority be given to measures such as the sustainable management of marine living resources, the prevention of degradation to the marine environment, better scientific understanding and coordinated implementation of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and of Agenda 21. The commission recommended capacity building, national and regional actions and efforts to promote wider implementation of international agreements.

Regarding the sustainable management of fisheries and other marine resources, it was noted that when managed sustainably, fisheries and aquaculture can contribute to global food security and income generation. States were encouraged to become Parties to international agreements regarding conservation and management measures of fishing vessels, straddling fish stocks and responsible fisheries, among others. The commission also urged the early formal adoption of the International Plans of Action that the Committee on Fisheries of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) approved in February of this year. It expressed support for the development by FAO of a global plan to deal effectively with illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing.

At the urging of NGOs, the commission invited the International Maritime Organization to develop measures in a binding form where the members of IMO consider it appropriate, to ensure that ships of all flag States meet international rules and standards. NGOs expressed concern, however, that while the CSD decisions should facilitate the work already underway within IMO and FAO, it will take considerable time to resolve the IUU flags of convenience fishing problem. They noted the status, for example, of the Patagonian Toothfish Fishery in

the Southern Ocean, which they said would probably collapse within a year as a result of IUU pirate fishing by FOCs and other flag States that lack the political will to enforce internationally agreed fisheries rules and regulations on fishing vessels flying their flags. Given the absence of a "genuine link" (as set out in Article 91 of UNCLOS) between FOC fishing vessels and the flag state being defined, they said that it was hard to see how sustainable fishing could be accomplished before more fisheries collapse.

Speaking to the IUU issue, UK Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott said that he deplored "the reckless illegal fishing under Flags of Convenience that we have seen threatening the stocks of toothfish in the Antarctic, with consequences for birdlife." He noted that some countries were "becoming havens for industrial fishing fleets, some of which ignore international standards and conventions.... These modern day buccaneers must not be allowed to plunder our seas for profit," he said. "It is absolutely vital that all states which maintain fishing vessels must meet their obligations under international law both on environment and safety."

Expressing grave concern at the slow rate of progress in many aspects of implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities, the commission stressed the benefits of preparing programmes within a framework of integrated coastal area management and the importance of supporting initiatives at the regional level to protect the marine environment from land-based activities. It also welcomed activities on persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

Noting other marine activities such as shipping, dumping of wastes and offshore oil and gas operations, the commission urged better international coordination and cooperation in the complex and interrelated area of oceans and seas. It invited the Secretary-General to take measures to ensure collaboration between relevant parts of the UN secretariat, to improve the effectiveness of the work of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas, and to suggest initiatives that could improve coordination. It cited the GA as the appropriate body for the coordination required to ensure an integrated approach to all aspects of the oceans issue at both intergovernmental and inter-agency levels. Many delegates remembered the high-level segment's expression of interest in "broadening and deepening" the GA's consideration of oceans and seas issues. Informals were conducted on how to achieve this objective, and delegates were presented with a proposal that the CSD recommend that the GA establish an open-ended informal consultative process. The commission suggested an annual, week-long informal process with input from representatives of Major Groups in discussion panels, and proposed that the effectiveness of the process be reviewed no later than four years after its establishment.

Delegates did not reach consensus on: subsidies; the prohibition of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes; and improving information on fisheries sustainability to be made available to consumers (eco-labelling). It did agree, however, that states should be encouraged to develop environmentally sound and sustainable aquaculture in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

The text on changing consumption and production patterns decides that the goal of changing such behavior patterns should be pursued by all countries, with developed countries taking the lead, in full accordance with Agenda 21, and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. Such efforts should be undertaken while taking into account the situation of developing countries adversely affected by the process and ensuring that all countries benefit from it. The decision emphasizes that governments face a collective challenge requiring reaffirmed commitments, strengthened cooperation and greater efforts towards concrete action, taking into account states' common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the 1992 Rio Declaration. All other Major Groups, including the private sector, were asked to take actions in changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns. Special attention was drawn to unsustainable patterns among the richer segments in all countries, in particular developed countries. Developed countries were also urged to meet the UN target of 0.7% of gross national product (GNP) for official development assistance (ODA).

The commission reaffirmed that poverty eradication and the changing of unsustainable patterns remained the overriding issues of its work programme. Governments, in cooperation with relevant organizations and in partnership with Major Groups, were asked to promote measures to internalize environmental costs and benefits in the price of goods and services; develop and implement public awareness programmes; and ensure that implementation of measures do not result in disguised barriers to trade. Developed countries were asked to promote and facilitate the transfer of technical know-how and environmentally sound technologies, as well as capacity building for implementation, to developing countries and those in transition. It was recognized that approaches suited to country-specific conditions can lead to reduced cost and improved competitiveness as well as reduced environmental impacts. A section on globalization calls for studies on trade and investment; the media and advertising; the role of the financial sector; and traditional values. With regard to urbanization, the decision addresses fresh water and sanitation in developing countries, calls for in-depth studies on the key determinants of quality of life, and urges cooperation on waste programmes.

OTHER OUTCOMES

Voluntary Initiatives and Agreements

A resolution adopted on voluntary initiatives and agreements for addressing the negative impacts of industry on the environment was the outcome of dialogue among governments and Major Groups in the "industry segment" of CSD-6. It was followed up with an intersectoral, multi-stakeholder workshop on voluntary initiatives held in Toronto (Canada) from 10-12 March. Noting the commitments to future action made at Toronto, the commission adopted a text recognizing that voluntary initiatives and agreements should complement regulatory frameworks and noting the potential value of processes involving governments and Major Groups in such work. It

stressed the need for better understanding and analysis of the impact of voluntary initiatives and agreements on developing countries, and requested relevant Major Groups and other stakeholders to report on steps taken or progress made in assisting developing countries to understand or make use of lessons learned. The resolution also requested that steps be taken to ensure wider participation by developing countries in the intersessional consultative process.

Guidelines on Consumer Protection

By a draft resolution on expanding guidelines on consumer protection, the commission recommended that ECOSOC expand the UN guidelines to include sustainable consumption. Adopted by the GA in 1985, the guidelines were intended to protect consumers from hazards to health and safety, to promote and protect their economic interests, to improve consumer access to information on products, educate consumers on the impacts of consumer choices, and make available some form of effective consumer redress.

The expanded guidelines would state that unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries, are the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment. All countries should strive to promote sustainable consumption patterns with developed countries taking the lead. Developing countries should seek to achieve sustainable consumption patterns in their development process, having due regard to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The NGO Caucus on Sustainable Production and Consumption noted that national policy frameworks on sustainable production and consumption are essential to effectively address the underlying causes of unsustainable production and consumption. According to the caucus, it is important to recognize that sustainable production and consumption are interdependent with major changes needed in global trade, finance and investment practices. "The adoption of guidelines should be seen not as the end of a process but a beginning. Sustainability cannot be achieved through mechanisms relying primarily on market forces. Political leadership and informed citizenship is required. The promotion of a new millennium round of trade liberalization negotiations by the WTO should not be considered until there has been a comprehensive assessment of the impact of existing agreements on poverty, environmental degradation, health, consumer protection, labour rights and other social issues. We have an obligation to understand the extent to which unsustainable production and consumption contributes to ecological debt owed to developing countries while deepening the external debt crisis. We urge governments committed to biosafety to work towards a strong protocol when negotiations resume."

Preparations for CSD-9 on the Issue of Energy

By a text concerning preparations for CSD-9, the sectoral theme of which is energy, the commission recommended that ECOSOC decide that the first session of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development be held for one week immediately before or after the CSD's intersessional meeting in February 2000. The Expert Group would then report to the CSD-8 in April 2000, and meet again in

February 2001 just prior to CSD-9. The group will be led by a five-member bureau, comprised of representatives from each of the regional groups of the UN. The bureau will include two co-chairs from a developing and developed country. Iran was selected as the developing country co-chair. Austria and Norway are both interested in serving as the developed country co-chair but neither is an elected member of the CSD. The Office of Legal Affairs has been requested to submit a legal opinion on this matter to the CSD Chair for transmission to the President of ECOSOC for a final decision.

NGOs expressed concern that they were "witnessing the extinction of the Rio Spirit," noting that governments were now playing "power politics" and "scrambling for strategic positions" at the CSD-9 in an effort to set the energy agenda for the commission. They noted that bureau members were either oil-producing nations or nations heavily dependent on fossil fuels. "Where are the CSD members promoting sustainable energy development on the Bureau for CSD-9?" they asked.

With regard to preparations for CSD-9, the council would call upon governments, civil society and other Major Groups to participate and contribute to the preparatory process. It would recognize that funding to support participation was essential and should be provided in accordance with its own decision 1993/207. It would also urge voluntary contributions to support representatives participating from developing countries that are not members of the commission.

Sustainable Development in the Balkans

The commission decided not to act on a draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation on sustainable development in the Balkans. The draft text called upon all parties to stop actions that aggravated the situation in the Balkans and expressed deep concern about the unfolding environmental crisis resulting from the destruction of chemical, oil and other industries in Yugoslavia, as well as the social and humanitarian consequences of the increase in refugees and displaced persons, and the undermining of social and economic infrastructure. The "no action" motion, proposed by Germany on behalf of the EU, was approved by a vote of 33 in favour, four against (China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and Zimbabwe) with eight abstentions. Germany said that the text concerned matters of peace and security, and the commission should not set a precedent by entering into a substantive debate on such matters. The Russian Federation replied that as the main body in the UN dealing with sustainable development, the commission should play a role in addressing the unfolding environmental disaster in Yugoslavia, with its unpredictable consequences for the lives of millions in Europe. Many countries expressed support for the content of the draft resolution, but with few exceptions agreed that the commission was not the appropriate forum for discussing it. The Russian Federation noted that the time would come when the consequences of the events in the Balkans would be on the UN agenda, including that of the commission.

Education, Public Awareness and Training

By a decision on education, public awareness and training, the commission called on governments, NGOs and UN bodies, in particular the United Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as task manager, to

intensify collaborative efforts in implementing the Work Programme on Education for Sustainable Development. It encouraged those same organizations to give priority to integrating aspects of sustainable development in educational policies, and requested the Secretary-General to report to CSD-8 on the progress made in the implementation of the work programme.

OTHER NGO ACTIVITIES

Some 600 NGO representatives attended the CSD-7, their participation facilitated by the NGO CSD Steering Committee through both regional and issue-based caucuses. These caucuses worked all year to prepare position papers for the CSD, provided an orientation for newcomers to the session, prepared statements and made interventions, and lobbied strategically on issues of concern throughout the CSD-7.

The Steering Committee also published a *Diary for the CSD-7*, describing the main issues of concern during the session, scheduled events, publications of interest, and relevant contacts and logistical information. The committee was supported by *Outreach*, a daily NGO news bulletin published by UNED-UK and the Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development. The *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* (ENB) also provided detailed coverage of intergovernmental negotiations. In addition to directly participating and influencing the drafting of official texts, the CSD process allowed the Major Groups to contribute to the exchange of ideas and views through more than 150 side events held during the session.

A Sustainable Development Learning Center, a joint project of the CSD secretariat and the Foundation for the Future of Youth, was also available to CSD participants. The centre provided computer systems loaded with software, games and book-marked Internet sites collected from Major Groups, governments and international organizations. The centre showcased education kits and informational materials focusing on sustainable development education efforts related to the main issues of the CSD-7.

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CSD

The eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-8) will meet at UN headquarters in spring 2000. The sectoral theme will be integrated planning and management of land resources. The cross-sectoral theme will be financial resources/trade and investment/economic growth. In addition, the commission will consider the report of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests.

The multi-stakeholder dialogue will be on sustainable agriculture, and will take up trade issues in this regard. The NGO Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Caucus is encouraging input from farmers and NGOs from every region, and is coordinating advocacy efforts on issues to be discussed in the dialogue session and review process. Issues of concern to NGOs include: steps to be taken in transition to sustainable agriculture; scale of agricultural production; role of organic farming and improved soil health in sustainable development; the need for an environmental assessment of trade liberalization in the WTO; the impact of globalization on rural women and small-scale producers; access to resources; local food systems and community food security; intellectual property rights; and biodiversity and biotechnology. Contact the Co-Chairs of the NGO Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Caucus: Gordon Bishpam, Network of Barbados NGOs, 104 Lodge Terrace, St. Michael, Barbados, telephone +246/424 5029, fax +246/437 3381, e-mail <cpdc@carinet.net> and Linda Elswick, International Partners for Sustainable Agriculture, 2100 L Street NW, Washington DC 20037, United States, telephone +1-202/778 6119, fax +1-202/778 6134, e-mail <ipsa@igc.apc.org>.

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