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**CONTRIBUTION
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"ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE"**

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*as adopted by the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments
on Environmental and Water Problems
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PREFACE

The Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", held in Dobris Castle in June 1991, underlined the need to develop an environmental programme for Europe which would serve as the framework for improved coordination of national and international efforts in Europe. The Expert Group for the second Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", to be hosted by the Government of Switzerland in Lucerne from 28 to 30 April 1993, invited the Senior Advisers to propose initial elements for such a programme. The Senior Advisers were also invited to assess progress in the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Bergen, Dublin and Dobris Conferences, to consider the relevant implications of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and to prepare draft elements for a Ministerial Declaration for the Lucerne Conference.

At their three sessions, held from September 1992 to January 1993 (ENVWA/WG.5/2, 4 and 6), the Working Group on Environment for Europe, which was entrusted by the Senior Advisers with the preparation of their draft contribution on the above-mentioned issues:

- (a) Exchanged information on action taken at national level for the follow-up to UNCED;
- (b) Reviewed information on action commitments of the Bergen, Dublin and Dobris Conferences, and on ongoing environmental cooperation in Europe;
- (c) Considered possible approaches to the elaboration of an evolving, long-term environmental programme for Europe, and discussed specific proposals for its initial elements;
- (d) Took into account the preparatory work on the report on the State of the Environment in Europe and the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe;
- (e) Considered opportunities for contributing to the preparation of draft elements for the Ministerial Declaration.

The present document, prepared in the light of the discussions held and the various documents considered, was adopted by the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems at their sixth session in Geneva, 16-19 March 1993 (ECE/ENVWA/29, para. 18).

ELEMENTS FOR A LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME FOR EUROPE

1. Recent dramatic changes in Europe have provided a unique opportunity for an innovative, collective approach to resolving the existing and anticipated problems of the environment and to ensure leadership in this sphere, while at the same time assuming appropriate responsibility for critical environmental problems of a global nature and offering partnership to other regions. There is a need for a pan-European environmental approach, based on a series of general principles, prevailing political and economic conditions in Europe, and aspirations for significant improvement in the state of the environment. Strengthened concerted efforts to enhance the environment in Europe will contribute to achieving convergence of the countries of the region.
2. Such a pan-European environmental approach, in the form of a long-term environmental programme for Europe (EPE), should be based upon the precautionary approach, the "polluter-pays" principle, and the concept of shared responsibility by virtue of which the ultimate goal of sustainable development can only be achieved by concerted action on the part of all the relevant actors working together in partnership. The programme should also take fully into account the results of UNCED, especially those which are of particular relevance to the UN/ECE region.
3. The effectiveness of international measures and of external support will, however, depend on each country's ability to establish and implement a national strategy to achieve sustainable development and prevent and reverse environmental degradation by fully integrating environmental and economic criteria at all levels of policy-making and activity. The elaboration and vigorous implementation of such national strategies have been called for in Agenda 21 adopted by the Rio Conference.
4. The EPE should take into account the diversity of requirements in various parts of Europe, in particular the need for the economic and social development and environmental restoration in countries in transition. It should address this issue in a long-term perspective taking into account, *inter alia*, the positive all-regional implications of any improvement in environmental conditions in these countries. The Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe should be considered as an important step in the short and medium term in promoting environmental convergence in Europe.
5. In the development of the EPE, possibilities should be examined of how international initiatives and cooperation could play an enhanced role in promoting sustainable development in all countries of the region.
6. The elaboration of the EPE could further develop and streamline regional cooperation in order to address, in particular, transboundary problems. Gaps in the current collaborative framework should be identified and possible new cooperative activities to fill these gaps should be formulated. Improvement of the coordination of various ongoing environment-related programmes and initiatives in the region should be strived for.
7. The elements presented below have been identified as the important long-term policy tools to be addressed in the EPE. Further tools and mechanisms promoting pan-European cooperation may be identified in the light of the report on the State of the Environment in Europe to be finalized by the end of 1993.

A. Technology cooperation for a better environment

8. Enhanced cooperation in the development and wide application of environmentally sound technology is vital to resolve current environmental problems, to avoid new adverse effects on human health and ecosystems, and to reduce the use of raw materials and non-renewable energy in a cost-effective manner. These needs apply to all countries, and particularly to central and eastern European countries.

9. Technology cooperation is a two-way partnership to enable countries and their industries to identify priorities and to improve their competence to develop, utilize and adapt the best available response options. Relevant technology is already available throughout the region; removing the existing barriers to its use should be the first priority. The instruments of cooperation may include information exchange, training, technical assistance, capacity building and financial contributions, as well as joint ventures by the private sectors, to carry out the relevant investments. As part of a larger package to introduce higher standards and better instruments for environmental policies, funding for the transfer of know-how, information, training and advice should be increased significantly.

10. Although technology cooperation should support national environmental policies in general, the objectives defined in regional and global environmental agreements should be highlighted in international support in Europe. Issues related to technology cooperation and assistance have been highlighted in the latest protocols on emissions control to the UN/ECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, and they are important for ongoing negotiations for a new sulphur protocol to that Convention. The UN/ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the UN/ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents specify that facilitating access to the appropriate technologies should be among the actions to be taken by the parties. Provisions for technology cooperation are also included in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which could make the necessary funding available and make it possible to support the most cost-effective abatement measures.

11. Mechanisms for industrial cooperation across borders could play an important role. The UN/ECE-wide campaign "Energy Efficiency 2000" has been initiated to improve trade and cooperation in energy-efficient technologies and techniques; it has been operational since June 1991 and is being extended to develop "energy efficiency demonstration zones" in countries in transition. The programme for bringing research for promoting technological development and commercialization in industry (EUREKA) is another example of this cooperation. The Sustainable Technology and Energy Efficiency Programme (STEEP) has been proposed by the International Environment Bureau of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) with the objective of advancing applied research in more environmentally sound energy production and use, and to ensure more rapid commercialization and diffusion of state-of-the-art energy technology, especially to countries in transition.

12. The Ministers and the Commissioner for Environment of the Commission of the European Communities might stress that:

(a) Programmes to promote environmentally sound production, technology and products should be coordinated. Priority should be given to those sectors that have the most significant adverse environmental impacts. The coordination of efforts on technology cooperation should be linked to the follow-up of the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe;

(b) The conditions for the utilization of environmentally sound technology, inter alia, for energy efficiency, in individual countries should be reviewed. This should include examinations of relevant direct and indirect subsidies as well as liability regimes, taxes, charges and pricing policies and other legal and economic frameworks as well as of the infrastructure of research, education and training. The technology transfer project of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) could provide valuable background knowledge for such reviews. UN/ECE should be invited to consider the legal aspects of technology transfer with an emphasis on regional environmental conventions. UN/ECE in cooperation with the OECD, the Commission of the European Communities (CEC) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) should be invited to examine the economic aspects, such as full cost pricing, taxation systems, environmental charges and the elimination of subsidies;

(c) Technologies for cleaner production and products, optimizing energy and resource inputs should be favoured in technology transfer and technology development. The potential should be examined for measures such as increased energy efficiency in order to limit emissions of greenhouse gases and acidifying substances at the same time. Following consultations with the International Energy Agency (IEA) and other organizations active in this field, UN/ECE should be invited to widen the scope of its Energy Efficiency 2000 campaign accordingly or develop a specific programme in this area. Attention should also be given in that respect to the development of energy efficiency standards and labels for consumer goods and appliances, and the acceleration of ongoing work on "energy efficiency demonstration zones";

(d) Together with the business community, company-to-company cooperation on environmentally sound technology should be strengthened, such as private/public partnerships along the EUREKA model. Issues of environmental assessments of private investment should be considered at the same time. The ICC should be invited to develop a programme in this area in cooperation with UN/ECE;

(e) The work on environmental assessment and environmental product profiles in UN/ECE should be extended so as to enable countries that wish to carry out technology assessments to build up a capacity to do so.

B. Integrated pollution prevention and control

13. Chemical substances reach the environment through a wide variety of sources and often move from one environmental medium to another. An effective and efficient approach to the prevention and reduction of risk to human health and the environment should recognize the need to decrease the total exposure resulting from all sources and via all pathways. That requires account to be taken of the effects of activities and substances on the environment as a whole, and of the whole commercial and environmental life cycles of substances when assessing the risks they pose and when developing and implementing controls to limit their release.

14. Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) is designed to prevent or minimize the risk of harm to the environment taken as a whole. It recognizes the integrated nature of the environment, and, in seeking to reduce the overall pollution burden, emphasizes the importance of preventing pollution by using instruments such as energy efficiency, avoidance of waste and clean technologies. There is increasing support for this approach at a national and international level, and IPPC has been endorsed by the OECD Environment Ministers. The Fifth Action Programme on the Environment of the European Community (EC) makes this a priority field of action.

15. The Ministers and the Commissioner might:

- (a) Endorse relevant ongoing work in OECD and the EC;
- (b) Encourage the extension of the work on IPPC to the wider European arena by establishing a task force in the framework of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems to examine various approaches which will:
 - (i) Test approaches to IPPC through a number of case-studies, looking at, in particular, the introduction of integrated permits that ensure reduction at the source and minimize pollutants transfers in the environment; drawing up multi-media inventories, accessible to the public, of substances used and released by various sources; application of life-cycle assessment and management of products; and inspection on sites;
 - (ii) Elaborate an appropriate methodology;
 - (iii) Draw up a self-assessment guide to practise IPPC;
 - (iv) Cooperate with OECD and the EC to ensure that its work complements that of these bodies.

C. Economic instruments

16. In recent years, there has been an intensification of efforts in many countries to achieve environmental objectives in the most cost-effective manner using economic instruments, in conjunction with regulations and agreements on voluntary action. One manifestation of this effort has been the adoption of OECD "Guidelines and considerations for the use of economic instruments in environmental policies".

17. In several countries in transition to a market economy there has been a strong interest in, and experience gained from, the application of economic instruments, even before the recent economic and political transformations. The lack of resources and the dimension of the environmental challenge in these countries have made the deployment of the most efficient environmental policy instruments all the more urgent. It has also stimulated interest in the experience gained by OECD countries in the application of economic instruments under market conditions.

18. Acting on a recommendation from an ad hoc ECE/OECD meeting on economic instruments for environmental policies for countries in transition, the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems recommended in March 1992, that the OECD Guidelines for the use of economic instruments in environmental policies should also be applied in UN/ECE countries, non-members of OECD. The UN/ECE Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics continues work on practical aspects of that application, in close cooperation with OECD.

19. The restructuring of the countries in transition offers an unparalleled opportunity to incorporate economic instruments into environmental protection policies, particularly where tax reforms are being introduced, and to ensure a closer integration of economic and environmental policies. Among the issues which are emerging as strategically important are the prerequisites for the effective application of economic instruments in the transition period (e.g. appropriate administrative structures, monitoring, policies for dealing with inflationary impacts, etc). Other issues which require priority consideration include insurance policies for civil liability for environmental damage, government guarantees for foreign credits for environmental protection investments, preferential custom duties (or exemption from custom duties) for environmental protection equipment, and earmarking of revenues from economic instruments for environmental purposes.

20. The Ministers and the Commissioner might:

(a) Call upon Governments to intensify the use of economic instruments, in conjunction with other policy tools, so as to achieve environmental objectives in the most cost-effective way, following the OECD Guidelines for the use of economic instruments in environmental policies;

(b) Invite OECD, in cooperation with UN/ECE, to:

(i) Review obstacles preventing a wider implementation of economic instruments throughout Europe;

- (ii) *Elaborate recommendations on the prerequisites for such implementation;*
- (iii) *Review experience with the earmarking of taxes/charges for environmental purposes, particularly in countries in transition, and prepare guidance on the extent of, and conditions for, the use of such funds.*

D. Environmental performance reviews

21. In 1992, OECD launched a programme of environmental performance reviews. The mandate to undertake this programme was derived from OECD Environment Ministers (January 1991), and reinforced by the OECD Council at its ministerial meeting in June 1991, and the communiqué from Heads of State and Government at the G-7 Economic Summit in July 1991. The general aims of this programme are to help OECD member countries improve their collective and individual performance with regard to the achievement of domestic objectives and international commitments, to promote policy dialogue and exchange of information on national approaches and experiences, and to make Governments take public opinion more into account.

22. Pilot reviews of Germany and Iceland were completed in OECD in 1992 and work is under way on reviews of Portugal, Norway and Japan. OECD has recognized recently that developing and implementing the review system for its member countries alone will require more time, resources and expertise that had been originally projected.

23. At its forty-sixth session in 1991, the Economic Commission for Europe, in its decision E (46), invited the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems, in accordance with the January 1991 OECD Ministerial Communiqué and the February 1991 Espoo Ministerial Statement, to cooperate closely with OECD to extend the OECD review programme to the whole UN/ECE region. At its forty-seventh session in April 1992, the Commission, in its decision E (47), again emphasized the importance of elaborating, in close coordination with OECD, a review programme for UN/ECE countries which are non-members of OECD. Such cooperative undertaking by the two organizations was specifically mentioned later on by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in its Helsinki Summit Decisions (July 1992).

24. The extension of the environmental performance review system to the entire UN/ECE region would, in addition to the general aims referred to in paragraph 21, support the development of strong democratic systems in the countries in transition, help them in the identification of top priorities for government action, assist in strengthening their national capabilities for environmental management and policy evaluations, and play a useful role in helping to monitor the implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe.

25. A series of intersecretariat consultations between OECD and UN/ECE were held in 1992-early 1993 to consider the practicalities of extending the review system to the entire UN/ECE region. In January 1993, the OECD Environment Policy Committee agreed to carry out a pilot review of Poland in 1994 on an ad hoc basis. The review, funded entirely by voluntary contributions, would be expected to develop mechanisms for practical cooperation between OECD and UN/ECE, and to provide a better indication of the particularities of the methodology and costs of reviews of UN/ECE countries which are non-members of OECD.

26. The Ministers and the Commissioner might:

(a) Reaffirm their commitment to their active cooperation in the process and to the objectives of environmental performance reviews, as well as to the extension of the review system being developed by the OECD to the entire UN/ECE region, and provide voluntary contributions for that purpose, as appropriate;

(b) Welcome the OECD initiative to undertake a pilot review of Poland, in cooperation with UN/ECE, in 1993/1994;

(c) Invite OECD, in close cooperation with UN/ECE, to conduct two additional pilot reviews of UN/ECE countries which are non-members of OECD, subject to the availability of voluntary contributions;

(d) Agree that, based on an evaluation of the results of the three pilot reviews, decisions should be made on a timetable and process by which UN/ECE, in cooperation with the OECD, could extend the environmental performance review system to the entire UN/ECE region.

E. Environmental information

27. The transition to sustainable development requires that action is taken on the basis of objective, reliable and comparable environmental information. This calls for an enhanced capability at local, regional, national and European levels to obtain sound environmental data, transform these data into meaningful information, and share this knowledge among the various actors involved in outlining and implementing actions.

28. With the broadening scope of environmental issues, new demands have to be placed on monitoring and information-gathering systems. The elaboration and implementation of international agreements and other arrangements relating to the protection of the environment in Europe increase the demand for compatible data in order to facilitate the implementation of national and joint actions. Various international monitoring and information-gathering systems in operation in Europe attempt to respond to this need.

29. There is concern that the expansion of activities in the field of environmental monitoring and information-gathering in Europe is not accompanied by adequate measures to attain comparability and accessibility of data at both national and international levels, to provide for a comprehensive picture of complex interactions and interlinkages within and between environmental media, to improve the cost-efficiency of programmes and to avoid unnecessary duplication.

30. The creation of the European Environment Agency (EEA), decided in European Council Regulation No.1210/90, would be a forceful response to this growing concern. A major task of EEA will be the creation of an environmental and observation network that would provide the European Community and the member States with objective, reliable and comparable information at European level required to enable requisite measures to be taken to protect the environment, to assess the results of such measures and to ensure that the public

is properly informed about the state of the environment. It is intended that countries which are non-members of EC will be able to participate in EEA on the basis of specific agreements. A task force established by the CEC is responsible for the preparation, in cooperation with UN/ECE, of the report on the State of the Environment in Europe.

31. The Ministers and the Commissioner might emphasize that:

(a) A pan-European information network of regional, sectoral and national focal points should be established to gather, analyse and interpret environmental data, and rectify the existing problems and inadequacies associated with the supply of objective, reliable and comparable environmental information. The EEA should play a central role in that respect, with active participation of all European countries through appropriate arrangements;

(b) Common European sets of basic environmental data should be established and updated periodically. The preparations for the first report on the State of the Environment in Europe, to be completed by the end of 1993, may usefully clarify information requirements in this regard. Further reports of this type should be produced periodically. Close cooperation in this respect between CEC, OECD, and UN/ECE and other relevant international organizations should be strengthened through appropriate institutional arrangements as a priority;

(c) Bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation and assistance programmes should be intensified in order to provide a comparable, technical capability across Europe, particularly in countries in transition, for efficient and effective environmental data collection and management;

(d) Measures should be taken to improve the efficiency of existing international monitoring and data-gathering systems in Europe, in particular, with respect to monitoring stations' coverage and functioning, harmonization of measurements, coordination, resource availability, and dissemination of data.

F. Public participation

32. Public participation in environmental decision-making at the appropriate level, based on increased public awareness of, and access to, environmental information, is important for the success of environmental policies. Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development calls on States to make information widely available so as to facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation.

33. Public participation in government decision-making processes, within the context of national laws, helps ensure that the Government has considered all relevant information and concerns, and provides a "reality check" on government decisions. Also, meaningful public participation in the decision-making process increases the amount of public support for the final decision, and should eventually promote convergence of public, government and industry views of environmental priorities, as well as the policies and practices necessary to improve the environment. In turn, greater accountability on the part of Government and industry and increased trust in their actions reinforce important democratic principles and mechanisms.

34. Legal systems have been established in many countries to allow the public to review and comment on environmental assessments, permit applications, or policy and legislative deliberations. At international level, public involvement is encouraged through such mechanisms as the EC Directive on Access to Information on the Environment, the UNEP Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) Programme, the OECD Guiding Principles on Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response, and recent UN/ECE environmental conventions on environmental impact assessment, transboundary waters and industrial accidents. The feasibility of preparing a document on environmental rights and obligations in pursuance of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration is being explored in UN/ECE.

35. However some obstacles to public access to environmental information and to involvement in individual and/or collective decision-making based on that information remain. Many environmental data collected by industry or Governments are not yet reported to the public. There is often a lack of public participation in government decision-making processes, in part due to the absence of, or failure to implement, legal provisions for such involvement. In the countries in transition, public participation is hampered by the lack of adequate legal and administrative systems (e.g. public dockets, notification systems) and the fact that the traditions of public empowerment and participatory democracy are not yet fully established. There are often restrictions on the ability of individuals or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to seek an administrative or judicial review of environmental decisions taken by Government or industry.

36. The Ministers and the Commissioner might:

(a) Endorse the principle of the right of the public (both individuals and NGOs) to know environmental information (e.g. environmental risks in their communities), and disclosure of such information by Government and industry to the public;

(b) Urge Governments to publicly report on the environment regularly, and urge industry to publicly release emissions inventory reports;

(c) Endorse the establishment and prompt, widespread implementation of legal, regulatory and administrative mechanisms at the local, regional and national levels that encourage public participation by individuals and NGOs in environmental decision-making, such as:

(i) Mechanisms for public review and comment on environmental impact assessments;

(ii) Mechanisms for emergency planning at the local level;

(iii) Procedures for the public to review and comment on legislative and regulatory measures, licensing decisions, permit applications, and other decisions concerning the environment;

(iv) Relevant administrative and judicial review procedures;

(d) Urge the strengthening of international programmes which intend to implement the right-to-know provisions of Agenda 21 (e.g. the International Programme on Chemical Safety, the UNEP Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level (APIELL) Programme), as well as the implementation of international legal instruments which promote public-participation mechanisms, such as the UN/ECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991), UN/ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Helsinki, 1992) and the UN/ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki, 1992);

(e) Call for the consideration and implementation, at bilateral and multilateral levels, of low-cost tools which would promote public participation in all of Europe, particularly the countries in transition, such as:

- (i) Decentralized, emission inventory reporting systems in a small area, e.g. the Black Triangle area;
- (ii) Voluntary measures that business and industry could take to adopt right-to-know programmes;
- (iii) Measures for greater public participation in the lending decisions of banks and other institutions of relevance to environmental protection;
- (iv) Training and public education measures, in cooperation with the NGO community, to increase the ability of the public to understand the relevance of environmental information to personal, community and regional well-being;
- (v) Participation of individuals and NGOs in the development of national reports to be submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

G. International legal instruments

37. There are now well over 100 international agreements and instruments dealing with environmental matters of concern to Europe. A large number of bilateral and multilateral agreements on various environmental issues have been concluded in the UN/ECE region. However, there is a growing need in Europe to provide for both the elaboration of new effective international legal instruments in the field of the environment and strengthened implementation of existing ones. The Environmental Law Centre of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) compiled information for the UN/ECE region on the "Status of Multilateral Treaties in the Field of the Environment and Conservation", which will be updated before the Lucerne Conference.

38. With the emergence of newly created States in Europe, there is a need for them to conclude agreements or other arrangements to define mutual relations with regard to the protection and rational management of the environment and natural resources. Some of them will have to assume full responsibilities under existing agreements. Others will be expected to accede to such agreements and establish legal, regulatory, administrative and technical structures to cope adequately with relevant international obligations.

39. The objectives of international environmental agreements would be effectively achieved if all relevant States became parties to them, and rigorous implementation including monitoring of compliance was ensured. There are various administrative, technical, economic and financial obstacles impeding the participation of several countries in the UN/ECE region in the latest environmental agreements such as the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel, 1989), the protocols to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991), the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki, 1992), the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Helsinki, 1992), the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki, 1992), the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (Paris, 1992), the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (Bucharest, 1992), and the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (Barcelona, 1976).

40. A questionnaire regarding participation and implementation of seven environmental conventions was sent out by the Government of Switzerland to 46 Governments. 30 Governments including 15 Governments from central and eastern Europe submitted replies. These replies were evaluated by the Swiss authorities and the results are as follows:

(a) The seven conventions listed in the questionnaire cover a wide range of environmental problems. Their implementation therefore requires different means and measures. However, the nature of problems indicated in the answers to the questionnaire appears to be very much the same for all of the conventions:

- (i) There is a lack of knowledge about the conventions, especially in the newly independent States of central and eastern Europe. Lack of the necessary administrative infrastructure prevents many countries in transition either from adhering to a convention or from implementing it properly. The elaboration of appropriate internal legislation also presents difficulties for these countries. New technologies and improvements in education and training are required by virtually all countries in transition as well as by several other countries. The costs of implementation measures are often considered to be too high by central and eastern European countries, as are the financial contributions required by some of the conventions. Financial constraints prevent many countries in transition from regularly participating in meetings of parties and in expert groups. Indications with regard to the measures to be undertaken correspond to the problems stated above;
- (ii) Other reasons preventing a Government from adhering to a convention are the lack of support for environmental policies in general and the lack of relevance of the objectives of the convention. The latter of these reasons, however, plays a considerable role only for one of the seven conventions (i.e. the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Bonn, 1979);

(b) There are considerable differences concerning the extent to which assistance is needed in the central and eastern European States. Most of the newly independent States expressed their need for a wide range of basic assistance measures to enable their accession to nearly all of the seven conventions. Other Governments from central and eastern Europe, who have participated in most of these conventions for years, need to address clearly identified specific technical and administrative problems;

(c) The details of measures and actions to be taken in the light of the results of the questionnaire will have to be discussed between Governments and the respective convention secretariats. The following concrete proposals were made:

- (i) Regarding the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Geneva, 1979), there is a special need for more information on how to implement the protocol on volatile organic compounds. The necessary technology is often not available, and in some cases there seems to be a lack of knowledge about what is needed. Some Governments need assistance in establishing the required emission inventories;
- (ii) Concerning the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the need was expressed for specialist training and support by technical experts;
- (iii) Training seminars for customs officers are considered helpful for the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) (Washington, 1973).

41. The Economic Commission for Europe, in its decision E (47) taken in April 1992, invited the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems to consider the development of more systematic implementation and verification of UN/ECE conventions in the field of environment, taking account of the problems of some member countries, especially those in transition. The Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, at its tenth session in November 1992, decided to examine the status of implementation of existing protocols under the Convention and, in particular, the 1985 protocol on the reduction of sulphur emissions, and to elaborate proposals on enforcement procedures. The Government of Switzerland has commissioned a study on the monitoring and compliance provisions and the working methods of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its protocols and the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979). The study makes suggestions for the improvement of monitoring and compliance within the two conventions. These suggestions refer to reporting, the role of the convention secretariats and a possible compliance procedure within the conventions. In view of the study, these suggestions are applicable to other environmental conventions as well.

42. The Ministers and the Commissioner might:

(a) Call upon Governments which have not yet ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to the global and regional environmental conventions, to do so, as soon as possible;

(b) Invite Governments and relevant international organizations to consider the development of programmes aimed at strengthening the capacities of countries in transition to comply with obligations under global and regional environmental conventions;

(c) Support the development of more systematic implementation and verification of UN/ECE conventions in the field of environment, taking into account the problems of some member countries, especially those in transition;

(d) Invite parties to regional and subregional environmental agreements to consider at their meetings appropriate possibilities for strengthening reporting and verification provisions and procedures under these agreements and monitor the compliance;

(e) Facilitate participation of representatives of countries in transition in meetings under these agreements by providing relevant financial support.