



Balkan Task Force

In support of the wider United Nations system effort in the region, *Klaus Töpfer*, Executive-Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has established a joint UNEP/UNCHS (UN Centre for Human Settlements) Task Force on the Environment and Human Settlements in the Balkans.

The broad-based joint Task Force will collect, collate, and review available information on impacts on human settlements and actual and potential environmental impacts in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and neighbouring countries. In cooperation with technical bodies and relevant United Nations agencies, it will also identify

areas in need of assistance, and help actions to be taken in the short, medium and long-term.

The Task Force will work in cooperation with governments and inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, and particularly with the European Union and the World Bank. On the basis of that information, a prioritised action programme will be developed.

The Task Force is being chaired by UNEP's Senior Policy Advisor, *Bakary Kante* of Senegal, until *Pekka Haavisto*, former Environment and Development Co-operation Minister of Finland, takes the chair on 1 June.

