

G-77

## Ministerial Declaration (Excerpt)\*

### Environment and Development

49. The Ministers reiterated the urgency of accelerating the comprehensive implementation of Agenda 21. They further emphasized the importance of ensuring that all global environmental measures and programmes are based on international dialogue and/or consensus and should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable barriers or a disguised restriction that may inhibit economic growth. In this regard, they stressed that such implementation should not contradict the right of the developing countries to benefit fully from the utilization of their resources that are vital for sustained economic growth and sustainable development. The Ministers called on the developed countries to fulfil all their commitments contained in Agenda 21, which require them to halt their own destructive impact on the global environment while assisting the developing countries in combating environmental threats by providing new and additional financial resources and by the transfer of technology. In this context, they reaffirmed the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

50. The Ministers stressed that the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies are essential components of a successful strategy for sustainable development. Therefore, it is important to emphasize that effective modalities be agreed upon for the creation, development, favourable access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including concessional, preferential and grant terms. These arrangements should include the establishment in developing countries of international, regional and subregional technology centres, and the dissemination of information on existing environmentally sound technologies.

51. In the context of the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Ministers noted that the efforts to prevent and control desertification remain insufficient. They expressed concern about the lack of financial resources and the incomplete functioning of the Global Mechanism They called upon the international community, in particular donor countries and the international development cooperation system to provide technical scientific and financial support for the implementation of the Convention. The Ministers welcomed the Third Conference of the Parties of the Convention to Combat Desertification to be held in Brazil next November in order to address ways and means for the full implementation of the Convention.

52. The Ministers stressed the urgent need for the international community to address the issue of natural disaster prevention and to adopt adequate measures for disaster reduction as an integral component of sustainable development strategies and policies at all levels. In this context, they urged continued and full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 52/200 and 53/185 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/46 on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon as an integral part of successor arrangements to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

53. The Ministers welcomed the Kyoto Protocol on legally binding commitments for the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce their emission of Greenhouse Gases as contained in Annex-B of the Kyoto Protocol. They urged developed countries to undertake urgent and effective steps to implement these commitments including domestic action. Emission trading for implementation of such commitments can only commence after issues relating to the principles, modalities etc., of such trading, including the initial allocation of emission entitlement on an equitable basis to all countries has been agreed upon by the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Ministers categorically reject all attempts by some developed countries to link their ratification of the Kyoto Protocol with the question of participation by developing countries in the reduction of Greenhouse Gases emissions. The Ministers also called for immediate measures to provide the developing countries with necessary financial resources and clean technology to enable them to meet their existing commitments under the Framework convention on Climate change, including inter alia, inventorization of national emissions and dissemination of knowledge of climate change. The ministers also urged developed countries to avoid misuses of the "flexibility mechanisms" envisaged in the Kyoto Protocol to evade, inter alia, domestic commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

54. The Ministers acknowledged that the depletion of the ozone layer poses a serious threat to (the whole world). They urged the Parties to the Protocol to comply with the requirements and to phase out the production and consumption of regulated ozone depleting substances (ODS's) in accordance with the phase out schedules agreed to by countries in terms of the Protocol. The Ministers also urged Parties to the Protocol to comply with its requirements, including those relating to the phasing out of the consumption of regulated ozone depleting substances, and assistance to affected producers in developing countries.

55. The Ministers noted the need for full implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In this context, they looked forward to the early and successful conclusion of the negotiations on a Biosafety Protocol.

56. The Ministers recognized the important work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, the successor to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, in advancing the Forest Principles<sup>1</sup> and took note of the outcome of IFF III, held in Geneva in May 1999. In this regard, the Ministers called for a successful round of negotiations at the final session of the IFF in February 2000. The Ministers called upon the developed countries to implement their commitments particularly as set out in Chapters 33 and 34 of Agenda 21 in the context of IPF and IFF, and to continue to support policy deliberations and concrete actions building upon the forest principles adopted in Rio.

57. The Ministers underscored the need for early substantive preparations for the 10-year

review of the implementation of the outcome of the UN Conference on Environment and Development with a view to attaining meaningful results. Specifically, they noted the lack of progress in implementation of commitments at the international level, particularly in areas such as enhanced concessional financial resources and transfer of environmentally sound technology on concessional terms, which was evident at the Rio+5 in 1997 and expressed the hope that preparations for the 10 year review would focus on identifying challenges and constraints in meeting such commitments and evolve mechanisms and measures to remedy this.

### Habitat and UNEP

58. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 53/242 on the "Report of the Secretary-General on Environment and Human Settlements" and underlined its importance to the process of reform and rejuvenation of the United Nations in these areas, with particular reference to the roles of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, UNCHS (Habitat). They therefore called for an effective and speedy implementation of the resolution with a view, inter alia, to enhancing the role, capacities, effectiveness and efficiency of these institutions.

59. The Ministers expressed their concern over the declining funding resources for UNEP and Habitat and urged developed countries to support both institutions with adequate, stable and predictable financial resources to enable them to carry out their mandated activities.

### Development and International Economic Cooperation

60. The Ministers expressed the urgent need for certain developed countries to immediately eliminate laws and regulations with adverse extra-territorial impacts and other forms of coercive economic measures including unilateral sanctions against developing countries. They emphasized that such actions not only undermine the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, inter alia sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs, but also severely menace the freedom of trade and investment, which are also spelled out in many international legal instruments, including the principles establishing the World Trade Organization.

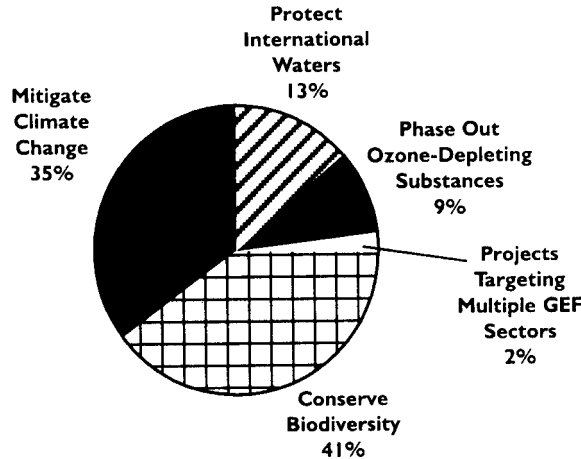
61. The Ministers also expressed their grave concern over the impact of economic sanctions on the civilian population and development capacity in targeted countries and therefore urged the international community to exhaust all peaceful methods before resorting to sanctions, which should only be considered as a last resort. If necessary these sanctions must be established only in strict conformity with the Charter of the United Nations with clear objectives, clear time frame, provision for regular review, precise conditions for their lifting and never be used as a form of punishment or otherwise exact retribution.

62. The Ministers recalled paragraph 179 of the Final Document of the Twelfth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Durban, South Africa, in which deep concern was expressed over the

\* New York, 24 September 1999. Twenty-third Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77. See also page 216.

<sup>1</sup> Non Legally Binding Authoritative Statement on the conservation, management and sustainable use of all types of Forest.

**Distribution of GEF lending**



*Courtesy: World Bank*

air attack against El-Shifa pharmaceutical factory in the Sudan on 20 August 1998. They recog-

nised that such an act has had a negative impact on the economic and social development of

the concerned country and expressed their continued solidarity and support of its demand for a just and fair consideration of the matter in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and International Law.

**Science and Technology**

63. The Ministers stressed the importance to developing countries of access to science and technology in order to promote their economic growth and sustainable development. They therefore underscored the need for developing countries to participate in, benefit from, and contribute to, the rapid advances in science and technology. The Ministers called upon the international community to help developing countries strengthen and develop their endogenous capacities and capabilities in science and technology, including in the area of environmentally sound technologies and new and emerging technologies. In this context they stressed the need to strengthen the work of the ECOSOC Commission of Science and Technology for Development, including through review of its working methods, as well as to enhance its contributions to the efforts of developing countries in this area. □