



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ECE/AC.22/2001/2  
10 October 2001

Original: ENGLISH

---

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**Regional Ministerial Meeting for the  
World Summit on Sustainable Development  
(Geneva, 24-25 September 2001)**

**REPORT OF THE UNECE REGIONAL MINISTERIAL MEETING FOR  
THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Summary**

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), convened the UNECE Regional Ministerial Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in Geneva, on 24-25 September 2001. This was the first in a series of regional meetings to be held in 2001 as an input to the substantive preparations for the World Summit. The Regional Ministerial Meeting was attended by delegations from 51 of the 55 member States of UNECE and included 22 Ministers and 15 Deputy Ministers. Representatives of the Government of South Africa, host country of next year's World Summit, also participated.

The Meeting adopted its Ministerial Statement to the World Summit.

Two ministerial panels were held: one on governance and sustainable development; the second on poverty and sustainable development.

The Meeting's Chair, Mr. Joseph Deiss, Switzerland's Foreign Affairs Minister, provided a summary of the Meeting (see annex).

## CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
Introduction - - - - -	1-2
<u>Chapter</u>	
I. REGIONAL MINISTERIAL MEETING FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - - - - -	3-5
II. ATTENDANCE - - - - -	-6-11
III. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - - - - -	12-13
IV. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS - - - - -	-14
V. INTRODUCTORY ADDRESSES - - - - -	-15
VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT- - - - -	16-17
VII. FOLLOW-UP TO THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH - - - - -	18
VIII. MINISTERIAL PANELS - - - - -	19-36
A. Panel on governance and sustainable development - - - - -	20-27
B. Panel on poverty and sustainable development- - - - -	28-36
IX. ADOPTION OF THE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT - - - - -	37
X. CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY - - - - -	38

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#### Annexes

- I. Chairman's summary of the Meeting
- II. Participants in the Meeting

### Introduction

1. The General Assembly of the United Nations, at its fifty-fifth session, decided to convene the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa, 2-11 September 2002) to conduct a ten-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Rio Conference). The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, acting as the Preparatory Committee for the Summit, at its organizational session in spring 2001, underlined the critical importance of regional preparations for the Summit to formulate regional platforms, outline key policy issues, priorities and follow-up actions for the next decade. The Preparatory Committee also decided that the results of regional preparatory activities should help indicate, inter alia, possible main themes, which could be in the focus of the Summit.

2. In response to these decisions, the Economic Commission for Europe decided to convene a special session as the UNECE Regional Ministerial Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

#### **I. REGIONAL MINISTERIAL MEETING FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

3. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, convened the UNECE Regional Ministerial Meeting on 24-25 September, at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland. This Regional Ministerial Meeting was the first in a series of regional meetings to be held in 2001 as an input to the substantive preparations for the World Summit.

4. Prior to the UNECE Regional Ministerial Meeting, a number of subregional meetings, which contributed to the regional preparations, were organized. These included, in chronological order, the Ministerial Council Meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (16-17 May, Paris), the European Union (EU) Council Meeting (15-16 June, Gothenburg, Sweden), the Regional Roundtable for Europe and North America (6-8 June, Vail, Colorado, United States), the Regional Rio+10 Assessment Conference for Central and Eastern European Countries (27-28 June, Bucharest), the meeting of Central Asian countries, the Caucasus, Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran (20-21 September, Almaty, Kazakhstan), meetings between Canada and the United States on the preparations for the Summit, a workshop of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of newly independent States (2-3 July 2001, Golitsino, Russian Federation), and NGO meetings organized by the Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED) (21-22 September, Geneva) and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) (20-21 September, London).

5. A regional assessment report on the implementation of Agenda 21 (ECE/AC.22/2001/3) was prepared jointly by UNECE and the UNEP Regional Office for Europe, with contributions from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, Bratislava Office) and other international organizations and institutions, experts and consultants.

## **I. ATTENDANCE**

6. The Meeting was attended by delegations from 51 of the 55 member States of UNECE and included 22 Ministers and 15 Deputy Ministers. Representatives of the Government of South Africa also participated.

7. Representatives of the Holy See participated under article 8 of the Commission's terms of reference.

8. Representatives of the Commission of the European Community participated.

9. Representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and specialized agencies as well as other intergovernmental organizations also attended.

10. Some 200 persons from 98 non-governmental organizations represented all major groups in accordance with the Guidelines for NGO participation that were adopted by the Commission.

11. A list of participants is contained in annex II.

## **III. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

12. The Meeting was opened by the Chairman of the Economic Commission for Europe, Ambassador Harald Kreid (Austria).

13. The Ministerial Meeting adopted its provisional agenda (ECE/AC.22/2001/1/Rev.1), with two amendments: item 2, Election of the Chair, was changed to Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs, and item 4, Consideration of the Ministerial Statement to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, was changed to Consideration of the draft ministerial statement to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

## **IV. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS**

14. The Ministerial Meeting elected all members of its Bureau by acclamation. These included the Chair, Mr. Joseph DEISS (Federal Councillor and Head of the Department for Foreign Affairs, Switzerland), and the following Vice-Chairs: Mr. Richard BALLHORN (Director-General, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada); Mr. Ioan JELEV (State Secretary for Environmental Protection, Ministry of Waters and Environmental Protection, Romania); Mr. Kjell LARSSON (Minister of the Environment, Sweden); and Mr. Serhii KURYKIN (Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources, Ukraine).

## **V. INTRODUCTORY ADDRESSES**

15. Ms. Danuta Hübner, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, and Sir Crispin Tickell, Chair of the Regional Roundtable for Europe and North America, gave introductory addresses.

## **VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

16. The Ministers and heads of delegation addressed the Meeting on the subject of the draft ministerial statement for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Prior to the

Ministerial Meeting, the draft ministerial statement had been discussed on 3 May 2001, at a meeting of the Enlarged Bureau of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy; on 12-13 July, at the first consultative meeting for the Regional Ministerial Meeting; on 27 July, in a small drafting group established at the first consultative meeting; on 3-4 September, at a meeting of an open-ended drafting group; and on 21-23 September, at the second consultative meeting. All of these meetings were held in Geneva. Mr. Francesco LaCamara (Italy) chaired the drafting meetings.

17. Drafting continued during the Regional Ministerial Meeting in a parallel drafting group chaired by the Vice-Chair, Mr. Richard Ballhorn.

## **VII. FOLLOW-UP TO THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH**

18. The Executive Secretary of UNECE, Ms. Danuta Hübner, informed the Meeting on the follow-up work to the High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health of 4 May 2001. She noted that the High-level Meeting had decided, inter alia, to take final decisions on a number of issues at a meeting to be convened in 2002, prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The progress report is contained in document ECE/AC.21/2001/4.

## **VIII. MINISTERIAL PANELS**

19. Two panels were organized during the Ministerial Meeting. The first was a panel on governance and sustainable development, and the second, a panel on poverty and sustainable development.

### **A. Panel on governance and sustainable development**

20. This panel was chaired by Mr. Svend AUKEN (Minister of Environment and Energy, Denmark). The other panellists were Mr. Olivier DELEUZE (State Secretary of Energy and Sustainable Development, Belgium); Mr. Yves COCHET (Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, France); Ms. Ilona BODA (Political Secretary of State, Hungary); Mr. Nurlan ISKAKOV (Vice-Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Protection, Kazakhstan); Mr. Nicolae STRATAN (Deputy Minister, Ministry of Ecology, Construction and Territorial Development); Ms. Paula DOBRIANSKY (Under-Secretary of State for Global Affairs, United States); Sir Mark MOODY STUART (Business Action for Sustainable Development); and Ms. Victoria ELIAS (European EcoForum).

21. Definitions of good governance varied only slightly and generally included a system based on democracy, freedom, trust, efficient and fair institutional arrangements, informed and science-based decision-making, coordination and partnerships, reliable rights for citizens, adequate participation of civil society, transparency of the decision-making process, access to justice, and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations.

22. Sustainable development, some of the panellists emphasized, required a common language across all sectors of government, as a basis for integrated decision-making and consensus-building. Finally, sustainable development was a matter of culture: it was the normal way in which societies produced and consumed. This was what had to be addressed.

23. Some of the main challenges were managing the three pillars of sustainable development in a balanced and coordinated manner; making sufficient use of strategic thinking and planning to integrate policies efficiently; setting concrete, realistic and measurable targets when preparing medium- and long-term plans; and establishing partnerships.
24. Governments had a special role to play in creating consensus and providing the basis for integrated decision-making. However, partnerships with civil society, including all major groups, academics and religious communities, were important for ensuring transparency and accountability of governments and for raising awareness on sustainable consumption.
25. Partnerships with business were critical as well, to manage natural resources, provide employment and promote sustainable development.
26. Governments must create a suitable institutional framework to facilitate these partnerships.
27. At the international level, some of the panellists supported the agreement of a global deal or global pact in Johannesburg that would, for example, protect natural resources, emphasize eco-efficiency and set measurable targets for reversing the overexploitation of natural resources by the year 2015; integrate environment and poverty eradication by, inter alia, ensuring the availability of drinking water and sustainable means of energy; reorient globalization through new regulations; and deal with questions of governance at the national level.

B. Panel on poverty and sustainable development

28. This panel was chaired by Mr. Jan PRONK (Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, Netherlands). The other panellists were Mr. Richard HAWORTH (Acting Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada, Canada); Mrs. Nino CHKHOBADZE (Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Georgia); Mr. Serhii KURYKIN (Minister, Environment and Natural Resources, Ukraine); Mr. Michael MEACHER (Minister of State, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom); Ms. Irene DANKELMAN (Women's Environment and Development Organization); and Ms. Karine DANIELYAN (NGO Association for Sustainable Human Development).
29. There were environment-related reasons for the excessive poverty existing in many parts of the world: scarce and contaminated water, air pollution, and soil degradation caused deaths, diseases and migration. Refugees worsened environmental degradation and spread disease further. War and violent conflict, by hindering economic development and spreading destruction, were among the most important causes of poverty.
30. Poverty was linked to the unsustainable use of natural resources, particularly water, and this point should be at the centre of any strategy for poverty eradication at national level, as well as at regional level, where regional framework conventions could help to address resource issues. Sustainable natural resource development was vital for creating jobs, attracting investment and generating funds for social development, and for ensuring the availability of resources for generations to come.

31. Poverty had also been exacerbated within the UNECE region by the transition process. Countries in transition were coping not with the classic concept of poverty but with a shift from one economic system to another. Assistance was needed to help them find a way out of this systemic friction. The UNECE region had a special responsibility to assist the countries in transition in cutting the vicious circle of unsustainable development and poverty.

32. Poverty and sustainable development were not compatible. Harmonization of policies was not possible with sharp disparities between different social groups; poverty violated sustainable development principles.

33. Poverty was also caused by a lack of investment. Countries in transition needed to provide a reasonable climate for foreign investment. At the same time, guidelines for private investment should be established globally and regionally to ensure that investors followed the same rules in all countries to promote sustainable development.

34. More public funds were a prerequisite for eradicating poverty. These funds could be made available through, for example, debt relief, conditional to spending on social and environmental benefits, through debt-for-nature swaps and through global CO<sub>2</sub> taxes.

35. The panellists supported the target of reducing poverty by 50 per cent by the year 2050, and called for an agreed framework to be developed to facilitate meeting this target.

36. Finally, most panellists emphasized the importance of increasing aid flows to meet, as a minimum, the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Some felt that a “global deal” between donor and recipient countries would be needed as a decision by the Summit to better implement the agreements reached at the Rio Conference.

## **IX. ADOPTION OF THE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

37. The Meeting adopted the Ministerial Statement to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see below).

## **X. CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY**

38. The Chair submitted his summary of the Meeting. This is contained in annex I to this report.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**

as adopted by the Meeting on 25 September 2001 1/

1. We, Ministers and heads of delegation of member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), met in Geneva on 24-25 September 2001 at the Regional Ministerial Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development to review the progress made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Conference) in 1992 and to outline key policy issues, priorities and follow-up, in order to provide input to the preparatory process for the Summit in Johannesburg (South Africa) in September 2002.
2. We reaffirm that our region has a major role to play and responsibilities in global efforts to achieve sustainable development by concrete actions. We will take measures to develop objectives that could include specific goals and targets to confront negative environmental, economic and social impacts of present development inside and outside the region. We recognize that different levels of economic development in countries of the region may require the application of different approaches and mechanisms to implement Agenda 21.
3. We support the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. We reaffirm the Rio Declaration and our strong commitment to sustainable development, our support of the Rio process and our intention to strengthen the implementation of the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 and other commitments made by the international community at Rio and at the United Nations General Assembly's special session in 1997. This should effectively contribute to achieving the agreed international development goals and targets and to meeting the commitments of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, by dealing with economic, social and environmental policies in a balanced and mutually reinforcing way for the benefit of present and future generations. We will promote the results of the United Nations summit conferences and processes of the past decade regarding critical social issues.
4. Since the United Nations General Assembly's special session in 1997, we have focused our efforts on the overarching objectives of poverty eradication and sustainable production and consumption patterns. We look to the Summit to make further progress on these objectives. In view of these goals, related priorities of the UNECE region for the Summit will include sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, environment and health, making globalization work for sustainable development, improving governance and democratic processes at all levels, education, science and technology. Financing for sustainable development will be a crucial cross-cutting issue.
5. We call for attendance and representation at the highest political level at the Summit.

## I. THE SUMMIT: PRIORITY ACTIONS ON GLOBAL CHALLENGES

6. The new millennium presents us with major challenges and opportunities that require enhanced international cooperation and global solutions. Technology advancement and increased economic activity have produced unprecedented changes in the world. Many have benefited as diseases have been cured, the availability of education and information has improved and economic opportunity has increased. However, in many parts of the world, severe and widespread poverty persists. People are threatened by conflict, terrorism and violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The environment and natural resource base that support life on earth continue to deteriorate at an alarming rate. Moreover, the scourge of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) is a worldwide challenge. All of which undermines the potential for sustainable development.

7. Addressing such challenges far exceeds the capacity of any individual State and also needs to be addressed effectively in a regional or global context. The Summit should, therefore, recommend effective action at all levels, taking into account the issues highlighted below. It should demonstrate the readiness of all actors – governments and major groups – to continue to work together in a spirit of global partnership. A gender perspective should permeate the Summit process. We seek to launch in Johannesburg a concrete mechanism to carry forward our shared objectives for sustainable development. Countries in the region intend to further discuss how to deepen the dialogue for an enduring global understanding. We note the wish of the European Union and other countries to seek to achieve a “global deal”.

### A. Poverty eradication

8. We consider poverty eradication and economic and social development to be central to sustainable development. Better access to productive resources and effective public institutions are crucial for effective poverty eradication. Public and private investments in education, health and other basic social programmes are prerequisites for empowering the poor to integrate themselves into the market economy, and hence to contribute to and benefit from economic development. These measures are also crucial to combating HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. Policies that promote a strong, dynamic, open and growing global economy and address environmental and social concerns and that result in widely sharing the benefits are key elements of poverty eradication and should address the needs and priorities of the poor.

9. The Summit should promote a better understanding of linkages between the environment, poverty, trade and human security so as to ensure a better integration between environmental protection and policies for poverty eradication and economic development. In the process leading up to the Johannesburg Summit, we will seek enhanced cooperation and solidarity with developing countries based on partnership and mutual responsibility for combating poverty and promoting sustainable development. We will take into account ongoing international processes in this area, in particular the process launched at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development. The international development targets as agreed in United Nations forums, in particular in the Programme of Action of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC3), will guide our action. As a next step, the development goals need to be further operationalized and effective monitoring systems

need to be set up. We expect that the Conference on Financing for Development will produce clear strategies and actions, both from developed and from developing countries, on the mobilization of resources for meeting the development goals.

B. Sustainable management and conservation of the natural resource base

10. We recognize that sustainable management, use and conservation of natural resources are needed to reverse current trends in unsustainable consumption and production at the national and global levels. In this regard, we encourage countries to set goals on environmental protection, and improved eco-efficiency and resource productivity with a view to demonstrating tangible results. The Summit should develop specific initiatives, building on work undertaken since Rio, in areas such as: fresh water, sanitation, oceans and seas (including coral reefs), coastal zones, mountains, land use, forests, biodiversity, energy, minerals and metals, and health and environment. The Summit should encourage sustainable management, use and conservation in the full range of resource sectors, both renewable and non-renewable.

11. We recognize that natural resources are of fundamental importance for the survival of many indigenous and local communities, including their cultural survival. Many indigenous and local communities are located in areas with few economic opportunities other than those presented by local natural resources.

12. Global demands and technological progress may increase the pressure to expand the use of natural resources in remote regions, such as the Arctic. States should assess the environmental, social and economic impacts of exploiting natural resources in environmentally fragile ecosystems, taking into account the latest research on the specific circumstances in these areas. The social needs and traditional livelihoods of indigenous and local communities as well as the existence of vast areas of pristine nature will have to be taken into account. In this context, special attention needs to be given to regions subject to high environmental pressure, such as the Arctic as well as mountainous and coastal regions.

13. We support effective solutions for the sustainable management, use and conservation of natural resources, inter alia, through programmes of action, voluntary processes and mechanisms, legal instruments and cooperation with industry designed to take into account the views and interests of relevant stakeholders.

14. We will seek to find effective solutions to serious global and regional environmental problems through international and regional legal instruments, including multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). The Summit should urge countries to strengthen their commitment to MEAs. It should urge countries to fully meet their national commitments, such as limitation and reduction targets for greenhouse-gas emissions. For the large majority of countries in the region this means seeking the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by 2002, with timely ratification processes, and with the broadest possible support of the international community, and welcoming the outcome of the resumed sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to this Convention held in Bonn (Germany) in July 2001. We will promote as appropriate the development of international agreements for the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources that integrate environmental, social and economic aspects.

15. The Summit should provide new impetus to the sustainable management, conservation and use of all types of forests, inter alia, within the Plan of Action of the United Nations Forum on Forests as well as within the forest-related conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. We welcome international efforts to address forest law enforcement and governance, including, inter alia, illegal logging and the associated illegal trade and corruption.

16. We recognize the essential role of sound management of chemicals for sustainable development and for the protection of human health and the environment. We will strive to ratify the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade as soon as possible. For many countries this means by 2002. Furthermore, we stress the importance of intensified global cooperation in the field of chemical safety.

### C. Making globalization work for sustainable development

17. We are determined to make globalization work for sustainable development benefiting all people and especially the world's poor. We are determined to integrate the poorest countries into the global economy. In the light of the uneven distribution of foreign direct investment (FDI) both among countries and among sectors, we will encourage environmentally and socially responsible investments, particularly in the least developed countries. Trade and investment can help to create a climate of trust and liberty and the economic wealth necessary to provide the resources needed to build and sustain support for improved social conditions and environmental protection around the world. In this regard, we will work towards widely sharing the benefits of globalization while taking account of challenges to social integration, environmental quality and cultural diversity. We encourage international financial institutions to continue to integrate human rights and environmental and social concerns into their work. We support the efforts of official export credit agencies to develop environmental guidelines and encourage sustainable development strategies.

18. The international trading system, including the World Trade Organization (WTO), must play an effective role in contributing to sustainable development. In this respect, we agree to enhance the mutually supportive role of MEAs and the international trading system. We support the launching of a new round of trade negotiations at the next session of the WTO ministerial conference, with sustainable development as an overarching objective. Participation in a new trade round is essential for countries in transition and developing countries, given their need to stimulate their economies, eradicate poverty and promote their integration into the multilateral trading system. Enhanced capacity and technical assistance are also vital if countries in transition and developing countries are to benefit from more open markets. We support the efforts of the poorest countries to integrate into the world economy and take advantage of trade and investment-based growth. We welcome recent initiatives to remove trade distortions and to give the least developed countries duty-free and quota-free market access. We urge all developed countries to follow suit, and encourage middle-income countries to improve market access conditions for the least developed countries.

19. We welcome the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Compact initiative. We strongly support the business and industry sector to develop partnerships and to take measures in the areas of corporate responsibility, economic, social and environmental accountability and exchange of best practices and technologies through various partnerships with other sectors. In this regard, we encourage workplace partnerships between business and trade unions to facilitate the engagement and participation of workers, in which the recognition of core labour standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO) should play a central role. We welcome the United Nations Environment Programme's Global Reporting Initiative, which seeks to get companies to present comparable sets of data on environmental and social performance, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and other initiatives, particularly in the field of foreign direct investment.

20. New information and communications technologies (ICT) may offer possibilities for significant reductions in the use of materials, energy and transport, and potential new directions in environmental policy design, implementation and monitoring. We recognize the possibility of using ICT in developing countries to leapfrog and avoid unsustainable products and processes. We will work to facilitate the diffusion of these technologies to close the digital divide and make them affordable and reliable, and promote information security. In the context of using ICT in support of sustainable development strategies, we acknowledge the recently established United Nations ICT Task Force and the Digital Opportunity Task Force (DOT Force) initiative by the Group of Eight major industrialized countries.

D. Improving governance and democratic processes at all levels

21. We believe that good governance, including respect for human rights, the rule of law, democracy and combating corruption, forms part of the necessary foundation for sustainable development in all countries. Governments should do more to ensure the enactment and enforcement of domestic frameworks, including, inter alia, an adequate regulatory and judicial infrastructure, including laws related to property, and should open up the policy-making process to get more people and organizations involved in shaping and delivering policy. Democratic institutions, transparency and meaningful public participation in decision-making will also contribute to creating the type of society in which all people have the opportunity to prosper but also the responsibility for the sustainable use of the natural resources on which they depend.

22. The Summit should initiate new efforts to improve partnerships with civil society and business and industry, and other groups in seeking sustainable solutions to development challenges. The Summit should encourage regional initiatives and processes with the participation of major groups on public access to environmental and other information relevant to sustainable development, public participation in decision-making and access to justice, and to promote the implementation of Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration. Governments in other regions may wish to consider acceding to the Aarhus Convention, otherwise establishing domestic regimes providing for public access to information, participation in decision-making and access to justice or utilizing the ECE Sofia Guidelines on Access to Environmental Information and Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making.

23. We stress that the commitments and responsibilities of all stakeholders should also be reflected in strategies for sustainable development to be adopted at different levels by 2002 and go immediately into implementation. These strategies should serve as mechanisms for interlinking social, economic and environmental objectives and issues, and cover a broad range of policy instruments.

24. We call for the development and implementation of "Local Agenda 21" strategies on sustainable development. These strategies should promote innovative local solutions, supporting partnerships of local people, community and voluntary organizations, consumer organizations and women and youth groups, indigenous people(s), minority groups, local authorities and communities together with business and trade unions, as appropriate. We will facilitate the sharing of experience with existing Local Agendas 21 and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at local level among countries.

25. We encourage increasing efforts to integrate sustainable development considerations in the decision-making processes within international financial institutions, WTO, development cooperation organizations and other relevant bodies. We call upon the Summit to discuss ways of improving the institutional framework for sustainable development, including the future role, mandate and programme of work of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, and to examine the corresponding role of the United Nations regional commissions in the further implementation of Agenda 21. We acknowledge that both governance on sustainable development and international environmental governance may require implementation and coordination efforts at the regional level and will need a more coherent regional institutional framework. We urge international organizations, in particular the United Nations bodies and organizations, working on environmental and sustainable development issues at regional or national levels, to extend their consultations with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other major groups. We call upon the Summit to discuss ways and means to promote compliance with, and enforcement of, multilateral environmental agreements.

26. There is a need to improve the effectiveness of international environmental institutions, and strengthen the coordination between them. It is important, in particular, to provide the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with a stable, broadened, adequate and predictable financial base. We support the work undertaken following UNEP Governing Council decision 21/21 to explore ways to strengthen international environmental governance. We look forward to the final recommendations of the UNEP Governing Council at its special session as an important contribution to the Summit preparations. We will collaborate with the international community and strengthen synergies between multilateral environmental agreements, where opportunities exist, including in such areas as scientific linkages, reporting, compliance, public participation and assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing these agreements.

#### E. Financing sustainable development

27. We recognize the primary role of domestic resources, as well as the role that trade liberalization and private financial flows, notably FDI, can play in generating resources for poverty eradication and sustainable development. These three sources of capital provide by far the greatest levels of financing for sustainable development today. Incentives for

environmentally and socially responsible investments, particularly in the least developed countries, should be promoted. An important way to attract and mobilize these resources is to ensure an open and stable enabling environment. A system of liberalized trade and effective and efficient legislation will help mobilize domestic and foreign enterprises and encourage responsible and beneficial investment. Environmentally damaging subsidies should be reduced.

28. Discussions on financing sustainable development should build on deliberations taking place within the context of the United Nations Conference on Financing for Development. In order to mobilize resources and reach the international development targets agreed in United Nations forums, innovative sources of financing should be explored in cooperation with business and industry representatives. Financial and technical assistance will remain important for the promotion of sustainable development in developing countries and countries in transition. International assistance flows, including debt relief and official development assistance (ODA), should supplement domestic and private efforts towards sustainable development. They should help developing countries and countries in transition to build and develop the framework that they need to attract the sources of capital necessary for sustainable development. We encourage the international community to take the necessary action to reverse the downward trend in ODA. Most countries in the region agree that the international community should strive to reach the accepted United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as soon as possible. In this regard, we welcome the recent outcome of the European Council of Gothenburg, at which the European Union reaffirmed its commitment to reaching this target as soon as possible and to achieving concrete progress towards reaching this target before the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. We look forward to a substantial third replenishment of the financial resources of the Global Environment Facility, taking into account its role as a principal multilateral financial mechanism for the global environment.

29. Official development assistance should take into account the extent of poverty in a recipient country, the commitment shown by governments towards the goal of poverty eradication and the extent to which policies are directed at this goal. Donors should further improve the coordination of their assistance to developing countries and countries in transition in order to ensure the effective use of limited resources in close cooperation with these countries. A move from a project-focused approach to programme support should be encouraged if the institutional capacities of the recipient countries allow.

#### F. Education, science and technology for decision-making

30. We are deeply committed to enhancing scientific knowledge and to improving the processes of generating, sharing and using science for sustainable development both within the scientific community and among scientists, policy makers and the general public for more action-oriented interdisciplinary research with greater focus on the prevention and early identification of emerging problems and opportunities. The rapid development and all-pervasive presence of digital technology in the economy and society will call for special attention. The Summit should consider how to ensure that science, technology and traditional knowledge are incorporated into decision-making for sustainable development at all levels, and how relevant knowledge can be made available to developing countries and countries in transition. The Summit should address precaution, as set forth in the Rio Declaration and which underlies a number of relevant multilateral agreements, in decision-making for sustainable development. We will expand scientific and technological cooperation to address

new and emerging risks and challenges to human health and the environment, and promote broader technology transfer and capacity-building.

31. We agree to improve education systems and the design of learning programmes on sustainable development to increase the general understanding of how to implement and promote sustainable development in practice. This should include initiatives in fields such as education, science and partnerships with business and industry and non-governmental stakeholders, and give special attention to curricula related to sustainable development. Education for sustainable development should encourage individuals to develop a sense of individual and collective responsibility, and thereby changes in behaviour, where needed.

## **II. THE SUMMIT: PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR THE ECE REGION**

32. We welcome the Regional Assessment Report (ECE/AC.22/2001/3) on progress made in the implementation of Agenda 21, which has highlighted the diversity in our region and underscored major problems on the road to sustainable development in the region. We highlight, among the important issues, the following:

(a) The movement towards less resource intensive and polluting industries, a growth in service sectors, and progress in eco-efficiency and cleaner production processes has resulted in less pollution and waste per unit of product produced and consumed in developed countries. However, in the region, total increases in production and consumption and growing road and air transport have resulted in increased environmental impacts and continued pressures on natural resources and ecosystems;

(b) Air and water pollution and land degradation are major environmental problems in the region. Climate change is beginning to have an impact, particularly in colder areas, and desertification is a continuing concern. Increasing pressures on ecosystems and natural resources and the loss of biodiversity are high concerns in the region. Chemical and bacteriological pollution undermine the health of people in parts of the region;

(c) Despite strong overall economic growth in the region, disparities in economic and social welfare, including unemployment and social exclusion, have increased and raise new concerns in some subregions, with several countries of south-eastern and eastern Europe and newly independent States experiencing sharp declines in living standards and widespread poverty and accompanying insecurity.

33. We take note of the conclusions on sustainable development of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting of May 2001, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy of June 2001 and the results of other international meetings on sustainable development held recently in the region. We also welcome the Ministerial Statement of the Central Asian Countries (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 20 September 2001) and their commitment to mutual cooperation. We note their desire to develop and complement the Central Asian Agenda 21 and subregional cooperation on sustainable development, and, as a priority, develop a subregional strategy for the integrated management of water resources and transboundary watercourses. We underline the importance of all preparatory activities for the Summit, including those by major groups and, in this regard, take note of the views expressed at the United Nations Round Table of Eminent Persons held in June 2001 in Vail, Colorado (United States).

34. We acknowledge that regional environmental conventions, the “Environment for Europe” conferences, the North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation, the OECD and UNECE environmental performance review programmes (EPRs), and other ministerial processes in the region should continue to play a significant role in developing the region in a sustainable way. We will continue to support national efforts and subregional and regional cooperation on sustainable development, which should be strengthened, including through EU, UNECE, OECD, UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the international financial institutions and other international organizations.

35. We also take note of the progress made in the EU enlargement process, in the cooperation among central and east European countries and the newly independent States, and in the implementation of sustainable development strategies and programmes in the Alpine, Arctic, Baltic, Barents, Black Sea, Central Asian, Mediterranean, Nordic, North American and other subregions.

36. Sustainable development must be supported by a common regional approach of cross-sectoral issues and means of implementation, including cooperation. In this regard, we reaffirm the commitments undertaken by the Environment Ministers of the region at the fourth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Aarhus, Denmark, 1998).

37. We will strengthen or develop policies to increase social cohesion, reduce unemployment, help tackle social inequality, facilitate adjustment to economic reform, and ensure food security, respect of human rights and access to social services, such as health care, taking into account gender-specific and intergenerational aspects in all policy measures. We will seek to ensure that social development targets and the policies of indigenous and local communities are integrated into sustainable development strategies.

38. While business and industry have a great role in the economic and social system, they have a special responsibility for ensuring environmentally friendly production methods, products and services, taking into consideration the environmental effects at all stages of the product life cycle. We will promote the full integration of environmental and social objectives into economic and sectoral policies, plans and programmes, and see to it that relevant policies are designed to support new opportunities for economic development and to reverse those trends that threaten health and the environment. We will strive for changes in production and consumption patterns by also promoting, as appropriate, eco-design of products, eco-labelling, and other transparent, verifiable, truthful and non-discriminatory consumer information tools. Care should be taken, however, that this does not lead to disguised trade barriers, in particular for developing countries.

39. The pressures on renewable and non-renewable resources should not exceed the carrying capacity of the environment. We will work towards the decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation, inter alia, through the removal of trade-distorting, environmentally harmful subsidies, increased market access to environmental goods and services, the use of various policy instruments for the internalization of external costs, the promotion and widespread use of environmental management systems and eco-procurement (“green” purchasing), effective legislation and enforcement, as well as the further promotion of renewable energy, sustainably managed resources and cleaner production. We will strive to

significantly increase the share of environmentally sound renewable energy in the total domestic primary energy supply and to assist in accelerating the development of energy-efficient technologies.

40. We will make further efforts to integrate environmental and health strategies and implement agreed targets focusing on issues such as ensuring food safety and the availability of fresh water, minimizing groundwater pollution, improving waste-water treatment and sanitation systems, managing effectively the risks associated with chemicals, and ensuring nuclear safety in the region. We will address the issue of living modified organisms. We will work within existing regional processes for the integration of transport, environment and health. Where appropriate, we encourage a shift from road to rail and water and from individual to public transport.

41. We will promote the integration of biodiversity concerns into land-use planning and management, sectoral and pollution-control policies as an essential component of sustainable development. We will establish and maintain further ecological networks in all ecosystems, in particular the Pan-European Ecological Network. We will strengthen and revise, as appropriate, the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy by 2003. We will further promote the sustainable management and conservation of forests in Europe and actively contribute to the preparation of the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Vienna, April 2003).

42. We commit ourselves to implementing, through the relevant conventions, strategies for the sustainable management and protection of the seas of our region, especially with regard to pollution and marine biodiversity with a view to ensuring a sustainable development of the coastal zones.

43. We will strengthen our support to countries in transition in their efforts to promote economic growth, eradicate poverty and resolve environmental problems, and thus contribute to the reduction of structural causes of violent conflicts. Effective completion of structural adjustment programmes, enterprise restructuring, technological modernization, higher investments in productive sectors and infrastructure, better access to export markets and integration into the world economic and trade system, as well as substantive social reforms, are of the utmost importance for these countries if they are to achieve sustainable development. We encourage further reform of the regulatory framework and we will strengthen our support to countries with economies in transition in their efforts to strengthen good governance and democracy, including the adoption, reform and effective enforcement of legislation, the improvement of judicial and administrative systems, respect of human rights, and measures to combat corruption.

44. We reconfirm the importance of strategic environmental assessment for plans, programmes and policies, and we will consider health to be an integral part of this assessment. In this respect, we acknowledge the decision by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context to develop a protocol on strategic environmental assessment for adoption at the Kiev Ministerial Conference in 2003.

45. We will promote the application of the polluter-pays principle, as set forth in the Rio Declaration and which underlies a number of relevant multilateral agreements, in decision-making for sustainable development. Each country of the region should develop a civil liability regime for damage, including environmental damage, caused by hazardous activities. We will strive to develop effective procedures and mechanisms to further prevent and resolve transboundary environmental disputes and provide redress for environmental damage. We encourage interested countries to participate in the intergovernmental negotiation process aimed at adopting a legally binding instrument on civil liability for transboundary damage caused by hazardous activities, within the scope of both the UNECE Conventions on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

46. We commit ourselves to implementing and complying with all regional and subregional conventions and protocols relevant to the environment and sustainable development to which we are a Party. In particular, we will work to bring into effect the Protocols on Heavy Metals and on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution as soon as possible, and underline the importance of this Convention's Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone. We offer to share the experience gained in developing and implementing regional environmental agreements with other regions. We will strive to increase our support to countries in transition and developing countries for their participation in the work of MEAs. We welcome the imminent entry into force of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, and encourage those who wish to accede to it to do so as soon as possible.

### **III. REVIEW OF PROGRESS**

47. The Summit should also address the future review of the implementation of sustainable development at regional level. We confirm our intention to hold the next comprehensive review of progress in the implementation of priority actions identified in this statement at the latest in 2011 at a regional ministerial meeting. Indicators for sustainable development could be very useful in this regard. We welcome the ongoing efforts of governments, NGOs and others to develop sustainable development indicators. We also welcome the ongoing efforts of OECD to develop an agreed core sets of indicators for sustainable development and look forward to the report on progress of the process in 2002. We urge the Summit to consider the progress made in the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development's work programme on sustainable development indicators with a view to the further development and use of a common set of indicators.

#### Note

1/ The Ministerial Statement is reproduced in the form in which it was adopted; only typographical errors and errors of terminology have been corrected.

## ANNEXES

### Annex I

#### **CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY OF THE MEETING 1/**

##### Introduction

The Meeting showed a common understanding regarding the problems facing the region as well as the opportunities available within the region but also with respect to its responsibility to the rest of the world. In this context, technology advancement and increased economic activity play a crucial role.

Differences appeared on how to face these challenges, and seize these opportunities. There were intensive discussions on how these problems and opportunities can be dealt with jointly. Accordingly, there were differing opinions on the contributions and the respective responsibilities, which the countries of the region should assume and how to do so at the regional, as well as at the global level, i.e. in the co-operation between North and South.

However, the Meeting succeeded in rallying all countries of the region - from Central Asia through Europe to North America – behind a common regional strategy in order to further prepare its contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

The central outcome of the Meeting was the establishment of a regional platform in the form of the Ministerial Declaration. In establishing a common understanding on how to deal with the challenges and opportunities at the regional and global level, this platform confirmed the clear readiness of the region to be a constructive partner at the global level. Moreover, it established the willingness to seek out new and innovative ways to improve the global partnership.

As regards the content of the Ministerial Declaration, the following central issues were thoroughly debated and agreed:

- Poverty eradication
- Sustainable management and conservation of the natural resource base
- Making globalization work for sustainable development
- Improving governance and democratic processes at all levels
- Financing sustainable development
- Education, science and technology for decision-making.

Among these issues, special attention was given to the following ones:

- Possible launching of a process for a "Global Deal"
- Volume of ODA;
- Precautionary principle and living modified organisms;

The meeting further debated the feasibility for the formulation of clear and measurable targets and goals.

### Summary

1. The Regional Ministerial Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development considered progress made in the implementation of Agenda 21 in the region, major challenges on the road to sustainable development, and priorities for action at all levels.
2. The Meeting was attended by a more than 30 ministers and high-level officials from different ministries, who participated actively in the discussions. There were also a large number of other representatives of national Governments, United Nations and other international organizations and institutions as well as representatives of major groups, who made substantive contributions to the Meeting.
3. A broad participatory process preceded the Meeting. It involved a regional assessment on the implementation of Agenda 21 as well as two Regional Consultative Meetings. Governments as well as a broad spectrum of representatives of civil society were involved in the regional preparations.
4. The Meeting considered the Draft Ministerial Statement to the Summit and took note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the follow-up to the High-Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health. Two ministerial panels were organized, one on "Governance and Sustainable Development", and the other on "Poverty and Sustainable Development". Summaries of the discussions at these panels will be annexed to the Meeting report.
5. A number of valuable contributions were made by a great variety of stakeholders representing the business sector, trade unions, indigenous peoples, women's groups and the NGO community at large. The participation of major groups reflected the spirit of the Aarhus convention and have certainly enriched the contribution and the input of this region to the global work.
6. In considering the Ministerial Statement, participants commented on a wide range of issues, which are summarized here below:
7. A large number of delegations condemned the terrorist acts of September 11, 2001, and expressed condolences to the victims and their families. The United States were assured of the support in the search for and the punishment of the perpetrators of this outrageous crime. It was stated that terrorism in all its forms is fundamentally contrary to international cooperation, the respect for human rights and the pursuit of sustainable development. It was further mentioned that in order to deal effectively with poverty, exclusion and desperation, which create the breeding ground for fanaticism and terrorism, a strategy of promoting sustainable development as well as increased international cooperation will be necessary.

8. There was a general concern over poverty as a major social ill in many parts of this region and worldwide. In several countries in transition more than half the population lives below the national poverty line. Relatively high unemployment in many Western countries raises questions about the sustainability of growth and the advancement of human development. Important links were highlighted between unemployment, social exclusion and ill health, on the one hand, and the overuse of natural resources, environmental degradation, social and political conflicts, on the other.
9. Unsustainable production and consumption patterns were another concern that was highlighted by many speakers. Although some progress was made in improving eco-efficiency and in decoupling environmental pressures from economic growth, these gains were offset to a large extent by overall increases both in the volume of goods and services consumed and discarded, and in the movements of people and goods. Moreover, despite the wide differences in some consumption and mobility patterns that persist between western countries and countries in transition, several speakers were clearly alarmed that consumption patterns in central and eastern Europe and the newly independent States are following the same path as they have done in the West.
10. The discussion revealed a general preoccupation with some of the serious environmental problems that the countries of the region are facing: emissions of greenhouse gases, air and water pollution, biodiversity loss, waste generation, technological hazards and risks to human health caused by harmful chemicals and living modified organisms – to name but a few. There was general agreement that more had to be done, for instance, to ensure a safe drinking-water supply, and protect our landscapes, mountains and coastal areas.
11. Many speakers underscored that the development of democratic institutions and societies had been one of the main challenges of the transition process and that many countries across the region had made important progress in establishing more democratic systems. It was mentioned by many delegates that legislation on public participation and respective practices could be improved.
12. A number of reasons were given why the implementation of Agenda 21 is lagging behind, such as: insufficient integration of social and environmental considerations into sectoral policies; inadequate dialogue between policy makers and civil society; weak administrative structures; and lack of resources. It was highlighted that monitoring and evaluating progress towards sustainable development, focusing on the interactions between the three sustainability dimensions, would have to be improved.
13. Many delegations welcomed the increased regional cooperation in various institutional frame works, such as the EU enlargement and the Environment for Europe process, and the contribution these have made to sustainable development. Some indicated that the region has been a leading proponent of international action and cooperation to secure sustainable development worldwide. Regional and subregional conventions and protocols on environment and sustainable development, in particular in such areas as air pollution reduction, transboundary waters, water and health, and public participation may serve as examples for other regions.

14. Various speakers noted that the diversity of the region required different short- and medium-term national priorities in moving towards sustainable development. Nevertheless, some progress has been made in setting quantified environmental targets, for instance, on reducing air pollution in the region. It was further noted that the ECE region, which brings together the majority of developed countries of the world, should address global issues, and send a strong message of support to partners in other regions, especially in the preparations for the WSSD.
15. Many speakers mentioned that their governments had adopted national strategies for sustainable development or were in the process of developing such strategies. These will serve as mechanisms for interlinking the three pillars of sustainable development and cover a broad package of policy instruments both at national and local levels. One delegation noted that the EU enlargement process allowed the adherence countries to leapfrog in their progress towards sustainable development.
16. It was noted that Agenda 21 has encouraged a great number of local authorities to take concrete action at the local level, as comprehensive programmes for translating the Rio principles into action have been drafted and implemented in thousands of municipalities in the ECE Region. The challenge remains to extend the experience gained in developing local Agenda 21 activities throughout the region.
17. It was generally held that effective strategies for sustainable development must include specific policies to preserve the living standards of those directly affected by the required adjustment and to avoid social disruption and unemployment. Human insecurity, poor health and social exclusion cast doubt on the sustainability of the region's economic growth, human development and environmental improvements. It was proposed, in particular, that countries in the region should strengthen or develop policies to reduce unemployment, help tackle social inequality, facilitate adjustment to economic reform, and secure sustainable livelihoods.
18. Furthermore, it was proposed that countries of the region should accelerate the implementation of development targets agreed at recent United Nations summits, particularly those relating to poverty eradication, and integrate environmental considerations into health, education, employment and gender policies. It was also stressed that the development of appropriate programmes with the dual aim of eradicating poverty and creating genuine and lasting sustainability was an important issue for the region.
19. Many expressed concern over the effects of environmental degradation on human health. It was noted that multiple linkages of environment, poverty and health existed and that they should be addressed in the preparations for WSSD. It was urged that all countries should ratify and implement international legal instruments, such as the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants to the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, or the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants before the WSSD. The need was also stressed to improve capacities of

developing countries and countries in transition to effectively manage chemicals and hazardous waste.

20. Many speakers highlighted that good governance forms part of the necessary foundation for sustainable development in all countries. There was wide agreement that a particular effort continued to be required in many countries to create an effective regulatory framework for an efficient and equitable market economy and a democratic society.
21. A large number of speakers encouraged the fostering of partnerships among governments, local authorities, business and industry, community and voluntary organizations, public agencies, trade unions, indigenous peoples and other major groups.
22. A number of speakers referred to Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, which is also reflected in the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Participation in Decision Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. In this regard, it was mentioned that this convention which will enter into force on 30 October this year is a legal breakthrough in the promotion of public rights. This instrument was seen as a source of inspiration for other regions.
23. Some speakers mentioned the importance of education for sustainable development, which should encourage individuals to develop a sense of responsibility, and thereby changes in behavior, where needed.
24. Various approaches were proposed to promote the role of science in sustainable development. Some suggested that the WSSD should consider how to ensure that decisions on sustainable development are science-based and help implement sustainable development goals. Many speakers stressed the need to apply the precautionary principle when applying new scientific knowledge and technologies. However, it was also mentioned that the precautionary principle was a difficult issue and that questions arise on how to exercise this principle in practice.
25. The crucial role of a reliable system of economic, social and environmental information to underpin policies for sustainable development was stressed. The idea to measure progress with an integrated indicator systems was put forward. Some speakers expressed the need to strengthen and optimize monitoring and reporting capacities to support the implementation of these policies.
26. A number of speakers underlined that energy efficiency had improved in many countries - mainly thanks to technological improvements thus de-coupling environmental effects of energy use from economic growth. However, in some economies energy intensity had increased or efficiency gains had been outweighed by increased consumption. It was also mentioned that energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy have a high potential to improve the living conditions of the poor.

27. It was noted that energy production and use continue to be the main contributors to anthropogenic greenhouse-gas emissions and air pollution. Some speakers proposed that greater efforts need to be made to further improve energy efficiency, to save energy, to use more renewable energy sources, and to ensure that energy prices reflect the environmental costs.
28. A number of speakers voiced for the need to make further progress towards achieving sustainability in the transport sector. The serious health and environmental effects of the increase of road transport, in particular climate change and air pollution, must be reduced.
29. A number of speakers underscored the importance of forest policies that promote sustainable forest management. Some suggested that within the UN Forum on Forests efforts should be undertaken towards the establishment of a legal framework on forests.
30. Several speakers emphasized that safe supply of freshwater, wastewater treatment, sanitation, the interdependence of water, development and health were extremely important issues in and outside the region. It was recognized that water is the main limiting factor for further development in many countries. It was proposed that the fresh water issues, the "global water crisis", should be high up on the agenda of the WSSD.
31. Many speakers referred to the application of the polluter-pays principle proposing its stronger application. It was also proposed that countries in the region should develop effective procedures and mechanisms to further prevent and resolve transboundary environmental disputes and provide redress for environmental damage arising in an international context. Some will be actively promoting the conclusion of a protocol on civil liability to the UNECE Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions.
32. A number of speaker referred to the need to improve resource efficiency and to dematerialize the economy to ease the pressure on the environment. Many stated that more should be done to protect and restore fragile ecosystems, such as the Arctic, and halt the loss of biodiversity. Extending such protection to human-influenced ecosystems requires an effective integration of environment and biodiversity concerns into agriculture, landscape, forestry and marine policies.
33. A number of delegations stressed that sustainable mountain development was a cross-cutting issue in the widest sense, as it addresses all three components of sustainable development. Reference was made to the on-going consultations on issues related to mountain protection and on possible agreements in Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Carpathians, or the Alpine Convention, with the latter being a good example for an international legally binding instrument to implement sustainable development in a particular region. The International Year of Mountains 2002 was seen as an excellent opportunity to promote sustainable development of mountain regions and to share experience.

34. Some speakers emphasized that climate change was not only an issue of global relevance, but also one that affected all aspects of sustainable development. In this context, several delegations called for an early ratification of the Kyoto Protocol.
35. Many speakers voiced the need to strengthen international mechanisms to prevent natural and man-made disasters and cope effectively with their economic, social and environmental consequences. International efforts for relief operations should equally include the human and environmental dimensions.
36. A number of speakers underlined that globalization, notably in trade, finance and business, affected people in every country and that it might have significant environmental and social implications, therefore requiring new policy responses.
37. A number of speakers expressed concern that environment and trade policies and agreements, at the national and international levels had mostly been developed in isolation from each other, although this concern is now being addressed. They stressed a need to ensure that trade and environment policies and agreements were mutually reinforcing. It was also stressed that the interdependence between trade liberalization and globalization on the one hand, and poverty and environmental degradation on the other, should figure prominently on the agenda of the Summit.
38. The need to encourage international assistance flows was stressed, especially by increasing ODA to the level of 0.7 percent of the GDP. The role of domestic resources was recognized as well as the role of trade liberalization and private financial flows, notably foreign direct investment, in generating further resources for sustainable development. It was noted that a substantial result of the UN conference on Financing for Development taking place early in 2002 will be of key importance for the success of the WSSD. Some proposed further restructuring of external debts for developing countries and economies in transition.
39. The ongoing process on International Environmental Governance was mentioned by several delegations as an adequate mean to strengthen the environmental pillar of sustainable development. Also a call upon the summit was made to adopt the results of this process. It was also stressed that the functioning of international institutions for sustainable development need to be enhanced. Particular attention was given to the role that the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, UNEP and GEF should play in this context. It was urged that the funding base of UNEP should be made more predictable.
40. A number of countries underlined the possibility for a "Global Deal". It was proposed that, in a spirit of partnership and solidarity and through a participatory process, such a "Global Deal" should be achieved at the Summit containing commitments by governments as well as other stakeholders that will result in concrete action to improve the implementation of Sustainable Development policies.
41. The Meeting adopted a Ministerial Statement. It not only reconfirmed commitments to sustainable development made at the Rio Conference and thereafter, but also contained further commitments at both regional and global levels. The Statement sent

a clear political message to the Summit by expressing the region's views on the Summit agenda and proposing initiatives in a few selected areas.

Annex II

**PARTICIPANTS IN THE UNECE REGIONAL MINISTERIAL MEETING  
FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT<sup>1</sup>**

**ALBANIA**

Mr. Ksenofon KRISAFI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Albania  
to the UN Office at Geneva

**ANDORRA**

Ms. Patricia QUILLACQ  
Legal Advisor  
Ministry of External Affairs

**ARMENIA**

Ms Nune DARBINYAN  
Head of International Cooperation Department  
Ministry of Nature Protection

**AUSTRIA**

Mr. Heinz SCHREIBER  
Director General  
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry,  
Environment and Water Management

**AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. Altai EFENDIEV  
Economic Adviser to Minister  
Head of the Department of Economic Cooperation and Development  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**BELARUS**

Mr. V. MALEVICH  
Deputy Permanent Representative

---

<sup>1</sup> There were approximately 500 participants in the Ministerial Meeting. Due to length requirements, only Heads of Government delegations, Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Ambassadors have been listed by name.

of Belarus to the UN Office at Geneva

**BELGIUM**

Mr. Olivier DELEUZE  
State Secretary of Energy and Sustainable Development  
Permanent Mission of Belgium

**BULGARIA**

Mrs. Fathme ILIAZ  
Vice-Minister of Environment and Water  
Ministry of Environment

**CANADA**

Mr. Christopher WESTDAL  
Ambassador  
Alternate Permanent Representative  
of Canada to the UN Office at Geneva

**CROATIA**

Mr. Roland ZUVANIC  
Deputy Minister, Head of Delegation  
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning

Ms. Spomenka CEK  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Croatia  
to the UN Office at Geneva

**CYPRUS**

Mr. Alexandros VIKIS  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus  
to the UN Office at Geneva

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

Mr. Milan HOVORKA  
Ambassador  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic in Geneva

Ms. Martina MOTLOVA  
Deputy Minister of Environment  
Ministry of Environment

Mr. Miroslav FUCHS  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

**DENMARK**

Mr. Svend AUKEN  
Minister  
Ministry of Environment and Energy

Mr. Dan NIELSEN  
Ambassador  
Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**ESTONIA**

Mr. Heiki KRANICH  
Minister  
Ministry of the Environment

Mr. Clyde KULL  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Estonia  
to the UN Office at Geneva

**FINLAND**

Mr. Kimmo SASI  
Minister for Foreign Trade

Mr. Taisto HUIMASALO  
Ambassador for Sustainable Development  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

**FRANCE**

Mr. Yves COCHET  
Minister  
Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning

Mr. Philippe PETIT  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of France  
to the UN Office at Geneva

**GEORGIA**

Mrs. Nino CHKHOBADZE  
Minister  
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection

Mr. Zaal LOMTADZE  
Deputy Minister

Mr. Amiran KAVADZE  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Georgia  
to the UN Office at Geneva

Ms. Natia TURNAVA  
First Deputy Minister of Economy, Industry and Trade

## **GERMANY**

Mr. Walter LEWALTER  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Germany  
to the UN Office at Geneva

## **GREECE**

Mr. Dimitris KARAITIDIS  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Greece  
to the UN Office at Geneva

## **HUNGARY**

Mrs. Ilona BODA  
Secretary of State  
Ministry for Environment

## **ICELAND**

Mr. Stefan Haukur JOHANNESSEN  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Iceland  
to the UN Office at Geneva

## **IRELAND**

Ms. Mary WHELAN  
Permanent Representative of Ireland

to the UN Office at Geneva

**ISRAEL**

Mrs. Ori LIVNE  
Director  
International Relations Department  
Ministry of the Environment

**ITALY**

Mr. Roberto TORTOLI  
Deputy Minister for Environment  
Ministry of Environment

Mr. Andrea NEGROTTO CAMBIASO  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Italy  
to the UN Office at Geneva

**KAZAKHSTAN**

Mr. Nurlan ISKAKOV  
Vice-Minister  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection

**KYRGYZSTAN**

Mr. Radbek Bakiev ESHMAMBETOV  
Minister  
Ministry of Emergency Situation and Environmental Protection

**LATVIA**

Ms. Ilona MENDZINA  
Deputy Director  
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

Mr. Frick NORBERT  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein  
to the UN Office at Geneva

**LITHUANIA**

Mr. Arunas KUNDROTAS  
Minister  
Ministry of Environment

Mr. Algimantas RIMKUNAS  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania  
to the UN Office at Geneva

## **LUXEMBOURG**

Mr. Eugène BERGER  
Secretary of State to the Environment  
Luxembourg

Mrs. Michèle PRANCHÈRE-TOMASSINI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Luxembourg  
to the UN Office at Geneva

## **MALTA**

Mr. Michael BARTOLO  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Malta  
to the UN Office at Geneva

## **MONACO**

Mr. Bernard FAUTRIER  
Plenipotentiary Minister for International Cooperation  
on Environment and Development

## **NETHERLANDS**

Mr. Jan PRONK  
Minister  
Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment

## **NORWAY**

Mr. Gunnar H. LINDEMAN  
Ambassador, Head of Delegation  
Special Adviser  
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## **POLAND**

Mr. Janusz RADZIEJOWSKI  
Undersecretary of State  
Ministry of the Environment

**PORTUGAL**

Mr. Pedro SILVA PEREIRA  
Secretary of State for Land Use Planning and Nature Conservation  
Ministry of Environment and Land Use Planning

Mr. Álvaro DE MENDOÇA E MOURA  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Portugal  
to the UN Office at Geneva

**REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

Mr. Nicolae STRATAN  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Ecology, Construction and Territorial Development

**ROMANIA**

Mr. Ioan JELEV  
State Secretary for Environmental Protection  
Ministry of Waters and Environmental Protection

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Yury KUKUEV  
First Deputy Minister

**SLOVAKIA**

Mr. Kálmán PETŐCZ  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic  
to the UN Office at Geneva

**SLOVENIA**

Mr. Franc ŽEPIČ  
State Under-Secretary  
Ministry of Transport

**SPAIN**

Mrs. D<sup>a</sup> Maria Jesús FRAILE  
Under-Secretary  
Ministry of Environment

Mr. D. José Luis ROSELLO  
Special Ambassador  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Mr. D. Joaquin PEREZ-VILLANUEVA Y TOVAR  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Spain  
to the UN Office at Geneva

### **SWEDEN**

Mr. Kjell LARSSON  
Minister  
Ministry of the Environment

Mr. Lars-Göran ENGFELDT  
Ambassador  
Ministry of the Environment

Ms. Viveka BOHN  
Ambassador  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

### **SWITZERLAND**

Mr. Joseph DEISS  
Federal Councilor  
Head of Department of Foreign Affairs  
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Walter FUST  
Ambassador, Director General  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation  
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Beat NOBS  
Ambassador, Head of International Affairs Division  
Swiss Agency for Environment, Forest and Landscape  
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

### **THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

Mr. Vladimir DZABIRSKI

Minister  
Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

**TURKEY**

Mr. Fevzi AYTEKIN  
Minister  
Ministry of Environment

Mr. Murat SUNGAR  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Turkey  
to the UN Office at Geneva

**UKRAINE**

Mr. Serhii KURYKIN  
Minister  
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

Mr. Mykhailo SKURATOVSKYI  
Permanent Representative of Ukraine  
to the UN Office at Geneva

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Mr. Michael MEACHER  
Minister of State  
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)  
London  
United Kingdom  
Fax. + 44 20 72 73 47 60

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Ms. Paula DOBRIANSKY  
Under-Secretary of State for Global Affairs  
US Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520  
USA  
Tel. + 1 202 647 4000  
Fax. + 1 202 749 4883  
E-mail.

**UZBEKISTAN**

Mr. Khalilulla SHERIMBETOV

Minister  
State Committee for Nature Protection

Mr. Abdurakhim DJALALOV  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Agriculture and Water

Mr. Tulkin ANVAROV  
Deputy Minister  
Uzbekenergo

## **YUGOSLAVIA**

Mr. Vladimir JOVANOVIC  
Assistant Federal Secretary in Charge  
Federal Secretariat for Health, Labour and Social Welfare

Mrs. Ljiljana TABAS  
Minister Plenipotentiary  
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## **UN MEMBER STATES OUTSIDE UNECE**

### **SOUTH AFRICA**

Mr. Baso SANGGU  
Chief Director for Environment, Marine, Scientific and Technical Affairs  
South African Department of Foreign Affairs

## **OBSERVERS**

### **HOLY SEE**

H.E. Msgr Diarmuid Martin  
Apostolic Nuncio  
Permanent Observer of the Holy See  
to UN Office at Geneva

### **EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

Mr. Jean-François VERSTRYNGE  
Deputy Director General  
European Commission

## **UNITED NATIONS**

United Nations Department for Economic and Social Development (DESA)  
 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
 United Nations Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)  
 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)  
 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
 UNEP Global Youth Advisory Council  
 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
 United Nations Center for Human Settlements (UNCHS, Habitat)  
 United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

### **UNITED NATIONS RELATED ORGANIZATIONS**

World Bank  
 Global Environmental Facility (GEF)

### **SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM**

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)  
 World Health Organization / Regional Office for Europe

### **OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Baltic 21  
 International Energy Agency/OECD  
 Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)  
 – Liaison Unit Vienna  
 Nordic Council Of Ministers  
 Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)  
 Regional Environmental Center for CEE (REC)  
 Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia

### **NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Action Canada for Population and Development  
 Albanian Ecological Club, International Friends of Nature  
 Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE)  
 American Life League  
 Association for Environmental Lawyers of CEE/NIS  
 Association for Sustainable Human Development  
 Association 4d (Debates and Issues on Sustainable Development)  
 Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales (AIESEC)  
 Biotica Ecological Society  
 Borrowed Nature Association  
 Capacity Global  
 Center for Environmental Studies

Center for International Sustainable Development (CISD)  
Citizens Network for Sustainable Development  
Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches (CCIA/WCC)  
Consensus Building Institute  
Conference of European Churches  
Consumers International  
Croplife International  
Earth Council/NCSD Programme  
Eco-Accord  
Ecological Movement of Moldova  
Ecological Vernardsky Foundation  
Ecopravo-Kharkiv  
Ecopravo-Kyiv  
Ecopravo-Lviv  
Ecoterra  
European Eco-Forum  
Forum on Environment and Development  
Friends of the Earth International  
GEF-NGOs Network  
German NGO Forum on Environment and Development (DNR)  
Girl Scouts of the USA  
Green Cross International  
Green Liberty  
Green Network of Vojvodina  
Institute of Research on Problems of Non-Profits in the Newly Independent States (IRPN)  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade and Policy (IATP)  
Institute for Environmental Policy  
International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)  
International Committee of the Red Cross  
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)  
International Council for Environmental Law (ICEL)  
International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)  
International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)  
International Council of Environmental Law  
International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME)  
International Fertilizer Industry Association  
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)  
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)  
International Partners for Sustainable Agriculture (IPSA)  
International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE)  
International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco, Allied Workers Association (IUF)  
International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN)  
Inuit Circumpolar Conference  
Lychnidos – Center for Sustainable Value  
Mediterranean NGOs Network for Ecology and Sustainable Development (Med Forum)

Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (Mio-ECSDE)  
National Association for the Protection of the Icelandic Environment  
National Council for Swedish Youth Organisations  
National Society of Conservations  
Network of Experts on Sustainable Development of Central Asia  
Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED)  
Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment  
Oxfam GB  
Pax Romana  
Public Services International  
Regional Ecological Movement "Green Don"  
Regional Environmental Centre Moldova (REC Moldova)  
Regional Environmental Centre Slovakia (REC Slovakia)  
Regional NGO Information Center 'Volgograd-Ecopress'  
RICs Foundation  
Saami Council  
Sierra Club  
Society for Sustainable Living in the Slovak Republic  
South African World Summit Civil Society Secretariat  
Stockholm Environmental Institute  
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation  
The World Conservation Union (IUCN)  
UNED Forum  
Union on Sustainable Development  
United Nations Association in Canada  
United Nations Association in Sweden  
UN NGO Working Group on Women for the ECE Region  
Women in Development Europe (WIDE)  
Women in Europe for a Common Future  
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)  
Women's National Commission  
World Animal Net  
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)  
World Business Council for Sustainable Development  
World Resources Institute (WRI) – EMLA – Access Initiative  
World Wide Fund for Nature International (WWF International)  
Zabaikalskiy Center of Environmental and Economic Research and Programs

#### Note

1/ This summary has not been formally edited.