

JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT

**REGIONAL FOLLOW-UP TO
THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**



UNITED NATIONS

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE
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ABSTRACT

The World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa in August-September 2002, recognized that sustainable development of the globe was critically dependent upon achieving sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development determined that: "Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit should be effectively pursued at the regional and subregional levels, through the regional commissions and other regional and subregional institutions and bodies". Consequently ESCAP decided to take the lead in preparing an analytical document on regional follow-up to the World Summit in Asia and the Pacific. A comparative study of the outcomes of the World Summit and the High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Phnom Penh in November 2001, which adopted the Regional Platform on Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and other relevant forums reveals that the outcome of the World Summit supports the initiatives suggested in the Regional Platform and they have similar thematic priorities and policy prescriptions. However, there are a few gaps or missing links. The Regional Platform seems to be somewhat deficient in emphasizing the protection of human health, both as a theme and in policy prescription. Greater emphasis should also be laid on regional cooperation, particularly among the key actors in implementing the regional follow-up action, such as ESCAP, UNEP, UNDP and ADB. A third gap is in financing sustainable development which must be resolved one way or the other in order to achieve sustainable development in the region.

A comprehensive analysis of policies and priorities in environment and sustainable

development areas identified by various global and regional organizations and institutions has been undertaken. On the basis of this and keeping in view the Regional Platform, the publication has suggested a limited number of subregional initiatives. This is based on the following premises: (a) each member Government shall develop/implement its own national sustainable development strategy based on the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; (b) the subregional initiatives should keep in view the recommendations of the Regional Platform and (c) the subregional initiatives are not a wish list of projects but are based on planned or ongoing activities with indications of financial and technical support from major partners for promoting subregional cooperation among member Governments, such as ESCAP, UNEP, UNDP and ADB. The subregional initiatives suggested in the publication are as follows:

(a) **Central Asia:** (i) Regional Environmental Action Plan for Central Asia; and (ii) integrated water resources management;

(b) **North-East Asia:** (i) Cleaner production; (ii) transboundary air pollution, including abatement of dust storm; and (iii) desertification and land degradation;

(c) **South Asia:** (i) Poverty reduction and food security; (ii) natural disaster mitigation; and (iii) public awareness and participation;

(d) **South-East Asia:** (i) Sustainable Development of urban areas; (ii) Globalization and its impacts; and (iii) Strategic Environment Framework for Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS);

(e) **South Pacific:** (i) Pacific Regional Environment Strategy; and (ii) protection and management of coastal and marine ecosystems.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), popularly known as the “Earth Summit” held in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, adopted fundamental principles and a programme of action called Agenda 21¹ for promoting sustainable development. Following a review of progress in 1997, the United Nations General Assembly, reaffirming the Rio principles and its commitment to further implementation of Agenda 21, decided to convene the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in August/September 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa, to find ways and means to fully implement the earlier decisions. At the WSSD several new and emerging issues, such as the maintenance of global peace and security, globalization and international trade were discussed. The WSSD made several recommendations and commitments for further action and suggested a mechanism for implementation which is now called Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI).

Among the building blocks of the WSSD were the regional inputs provided by the member Governments of various regions, through the five Regional Commissions. In respect of the Asian and the Pacific Region, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) played a key role in providing the regional input by preparing a consensus document called the “Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific”. Although several national, subregional and regional documents were prepared and meetings convened by

various institutions and organizations in the region, the Regional Platform was the only official document which was submitted on behalf of the countries belonging to the Asia-Pacific Region. However, it is important to note that even though ESCAP coordinated the preparation of the Regional Platform, at least three organizations having major roles in promoting sustainable development in the Region – the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), were involved in the work preparatory to WSSD. In fact, a joint Task Force comprising representatives of ESCAP, ADB, UNEP and ADB was responsible for the process leading to the finalization of the Regional Platform. The Regional Platform made a regional assessment of the implementation of Agenda 21, identified key issues and priorities in sustainable development. The Regional Platform also identified seven priority regional initiatives: (i) capacity building for sustainable development; (ii) poverty reduction for sustainable development; (iii) cleaner production and sustainable energy; (iv) land management and biodiversity conservation; (v) protection and management of and access to freshwater resources; (vi) oceans, coastal marine resources and sustainable development of small island States; and (vii) action on atmosphere and climate change.

The principal outcomes of the WSSD were three: (i) the political declaration; (ii) the JPOI; and (iii) the financial commitments including the “Type II partnerships”. While the details of these outcomes will be presented in the subsequent section of this report, it would be relevant to mention some other background information related to the preparation of this regional follow-up

¹ Agenda 21 is the plan of action adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

document. The Regional Platform refers to follow-up towards implementation of Agenda 21 (which is essentially a follow-up of the UNCED 1992) and recommends the seven “Asia-Pacific Initiatives” as mentioned in above paragraph. The WSSD determined that “Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit should be effectively pursued at the regional and subregional levels, through the regional Commissions and other regional and subregional institutions and bodies”. The WSSD also recognized the seven regional initiatives and suggested follow-up actions through the existing (such as the Kitakyushu Initiative) and new regional and subregional action programmes.

Finally and most importantly, WSSD recognized that Asia-Pacific region has its unique characteristics of containing over half of the world’s population, largest number of the world’s poor and severe socio-economic and environmental problems. Therefore, sustainable development of the globe is critically dependent upon achieving sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. The implication being that the region needs attention from the global community including the donor community which has a key role to play in reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development.

I. RELEVANCE TO ASIA AND THE PACIFIC OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A. Outcomes of the World Summit

Three principal outcomes of the WSSD were the Political Declaration; the JPOI and the Partnerships for implementation.

1. Political Declaration

The political declaration emerging out of the meeting of the Heads of States and Governments at the WSSD is a historic document. It begins with a preambular section wherein the Governments affirmed their general commitments to achieve sustainable development and to build a humane global society in pursuit of the goal of human dignity for all. They had pledged to bridging the gap between the rich and the poor by implementing a global sustainable development programme. They had committed themselves to achieving internationally agreed development goals including the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Governments unanimously agreed that the most pressing challenges of our time are poverty, underdevelopment, environmental degradation and socio-economic inequalities within and among countries. Therefore, they agreed that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, protecting and managing the natural resource base for sustenance of life are the overarching goals of sustainable developments.

2. Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

The Governments adopted the "Johannesburg Commitment on Sustainable Development" which was the product of intergovernmental negotiations, multi-stakeholder dialogues and partnerships. In adopting the Johannesburg Commitment, the Governments, among other things:

- Recognized that democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights and the achievement of peace and security in this world are essential pre-requisites for sustainable development;
- Reaffirmed the principle of common but differentiated responsibility and that despite our diversity a constructive partnership for change is possible;
- Recognized the value of cultural diversity, promotion of interests of indigenous peoples and the central place for women in promoting sustainable development;
- Recognized the focus on access to clean water and sanitation, energy, human health and biodiversity; and also the central role of technology, capacity building and employment creation;
- Recognized the need for special attention to be paid to sustainable development of small island countries and the least developed countries;
- Committed to the reduction of economic, social and environmental impact of natural disasters;
- Recognized the essential need of promoting participatory approach to policy planning, programme development and their implementation;
- Welcomed and supported the emergence of regional groupings to promote regional and international cooperation and sustainable development;
- Recognized the process of globalization and agreed that there is a need for the private sector to operate within a transparent and stable regulatory regime to reinforce its corporate responsibility and social contribution;
- Recognized that armed conflicts are inherently inimical to sustainable development; agreed to combat terrorism and corruption; reaffirmed opposition to foreign occupation and assert the right of all countries to their sovereignty;
- Reaffirmed their commitment to the charter of the United Nations as well as the strengthening of multilateralism;
- Stressed the need for and agreed to monitoring the progress towards achievement of goals of sustainable development as set at the WSSD, at regular intervals.

The essential policy elements of the JPOI adopted at the WSSD are: (i) poverty eradication; (ii) changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; (iii) protecting and managing the natural resources; (iv) maximizing opportunities of globalization; and (v) protecting and promoting human health. In addition to these policy prescription, the JPOI also highlights action in the following cross-cutting/geographical areas: (i) small island developing States; (ii) sustainable development of Africa; (iii) other regional initiatives (in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, West Asia, Europe); (iv) means of implementation (including financial and non-monetary means and options); and (v) institutional framework.

The JPOI essentially attempts to translate the political declaration into an action plan for implementation by the Governments with the assistance of various global, regional and local institutions and organizations. In terms of strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development the WSSD recommended the following, among others:

- Strengthening collaboration within and between the United Nations system, international financial institutions, Global Environment Facility and the World Trade Organization (WTO) utilizing the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the United Nations Development Group, the Environment Management Group and other interagency coordination bodies;
- Adopting sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, particularly for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- Increase the role of Economic and Social Council in balancing the integration of economic, social and environmental aspects of United Nations policies and programmes aimed at promoting sustainable development;
- The Council should explore ways to strengthen its interaction with the Bretten Woods institutions and WTO, as set out in the Monetary Consensus on financing sustainable development;

- Terminate the work of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and transfer its work to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD);

- CSD should continue to serve as a forum for consideration of issues related to integration of the three (economic, social and environmental) dimensions of sustainable development. The Commission should focus on evaluating progress of further implementation of Agenda 21 and also address new challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of Agenda 21;

- At the regional level implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcome of WSSD should be effectively pursued through the regional Commissions, in collaboration with other regional and subregional institutions and bodies;

- The regional commissions in collaboration with other regional and subregional bodies, in particular should promote integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development by facilitating exchange of partnership experiences, best practices, and case studies. They should also mobilize technical and financial assistance for the regional member countries; and

- At the national level, states should take immediate steps to formulate and elaborate national strategies for sustainable development and begin their implementation by 2005. They should also strengthen Government institutions, promote public participation (including the participation of women, in particular) in their efforts towards achieving the goals of sustainable development. They should also enhance role and capacity of local authorities as well as stakeholders in implementing Agenda 21 and the outcome of the WSSD.

3. Type II partnerships

The third major outcome of the WSSD is the partnership events (including the "Type II partnerships"). At the WSSD, the Secretary-General of the United Nations declared his global initiative in five key areas: Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity (WEHAB). In response to the WEHAB initiative five mainstreams of seminars and debates were conducted at the WSSD.

Although they were not regarded as a formal part of the Summit, these issues received a great deal of global attention by the scientific and professional community; and because it was a special initiative taken by Secretary-General of the United Nations, it drew a lot of donor attention. Five special thematic papers were prepared by the Secretary-General which were further elaborated and discussed at the WSSD side events.²

During the plenary of partnership events the five thematic areas of WEHAB were discussed. The importance of potential roles of the WEHAB themes in eradicating poverty and reaching the other MDG goals were emphasized. It was recognized that lack of progress in most of the WEHAB areas was not due to lack of understanding and agreements on those thematic areas. In this regard the meeting identified a number of challenges including: (i) lack of capacity and financial resources; (ii) preventive rather than curative approach to problems; (iii) establishing a level-playing field for the poor in their countries and for developing countries in the international system; (iv) proper use of economic instruments to promote sustainable development (e.g. eliminate subsidies on water, energy, agriculture); (v) decentralization with empowerment of civil society; (vi) establishing sound policies, strategies and concrete action plans at the national/subregional levels; and (vii) establishing partnerships, particularly the so-called "Type II partnerships" which is considered as one of the most innovative outcomes of the WSSD.

"Type II partnerships" for sustainable development are defined as specific commitments by various partners (Governments of the North and the South and also between Governments and major groups) intended to contribute to and reinforce the implementation of the outcomes of the intergovernmental negotiations of the WSSD in achieving further implementation of Agenda

21 and the MDGs. "Type II partnerships" have several characteristic features as follows: (i) voluntary in nature and based on mutual respect and shared responsibility; (ii) linked with globally agreed outcomes of the WSSD and are not intended to substitute commitments made by the Governments; (iii) multi-stakeholder approach, preferably involving a range of actors in a given area of work; (iv) transparency and accountability; (v) tangible results; (vi) new or value added partnership with available or identified source of funding; and (vii) sustainability/follow-up process. Examples of "Type II partnerships" are: United Nations AIDS Drug Initiative; the Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunisation; and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and the Global Water Partnership. At the WSSD, in response to Secretary-Generals' WEHAB initiative, several concrete commitments were made and announced. Some of these are listed in Table 1.

At the WSSD, some of the key issues and challenges of WEHAB initiative of the Secretary-General of United Nations were identified as follows:

- *Water and sanitation:* (i) access, availability and affordability (including the role of private sector, resource scarcity, and decentralized solution); (ii) allocation issues (competing demands for agriculture, fisheries, navigation and industrial/commercial sectors); (iii) capacity and technology (e.g. in water management, sanitation and hygiene, participation, development and transfer of appropriate and low-cost technology etc.); and (iv) social challenges (water is a basic human right but putting it into practice is a challenge, in times of scarcity the poor, particularly the women and children suffer – most).

- *Energy:* (i) access to energy as key to poverty alleviation; (ii) energy conservation and improving energy efficiency; (iii) promoting renewable energy (to minimize adverse impact on human health and ecosystem); (iv) promoting partnership and cooperation among stakeholders and potential donors; (v) meeting the needs of

² These papers were entitled "A Framework for Action" in each of the five sectors and are available on the WSSD web site <www.johannesburgsummit.org>.

Table 1 WSSD Commitments in Response to WEHAB

Water and Sanitation:

The United States announced US\$970 million in investments over the next three years on water and sanitation projects.

The European Union (EU) announced the "Water for Life" initiative primarily in Africa and Central Asia. The Asian Development Bank provided a US\$5 million grant to United Nations Habitat and US\$500 million in fast track credit for the Water for Asian Cities Programme. 21 other water and sanitation initiatives representing over US\$20 million in extra resources have been submitted to the United Nations.

Energy:

G7 signed a range of agreements with the United Nations to facilitate technical cooperation for sustainable energy projects in developing countries.

The EU announced a US\$700 million partnership initiative on energy.

The United States announced an investment of up to US\$43 million in 2003.

The South Africa energy utility Eskom announced a partnership to extend modern energy services to neighbouring countries.

32 partnerships projects for energy representing over 26 million in resources have been submitted to the United Nations.

Health:

United States announced intention to spend US\$2.3 billion through 2003 on health.

16 partnerships for health projects representing US\$3 million in resources have been submitted to the United Nations.

Agriculture:

The United States will invest US\$90 million in 2003 for sustainable agriculture programmes.

17 partnerships projects representing US\$2 million in additional resources have been submitted to the United Nations.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management:

The United States has announced US\$53 million for forest conservation in 2002-2005.

32 partnerships projects with US\$100 million in resources have been submitted to the United Nations.

women (issues of indoor air pollution, fuelwood collection etc.); and (vi) action on climate change.

- *Health:* (i) controlling and eradicating communicable disease; (ii) prompt diagnosis and treatment of water and air borne diseases (including diarrhoea and respiratory diseases); (iii) preventing and treating occupational health hazards; (iv) protecting health of the vulnerable population; (v) focussing on preventive (rather than curative) measures; and (vi) undertaking research in assessing health, risks, identifying new and emerging health

threats in time to take preventing measures and training and retraining of health care providers.

- *Agriculture:* (i) soil fertility increase, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and other developing countries; (ii) diversification of crops and non-farming activities in rural areas to enhance sources of income and employment; (iii) eliminating trade barriers and trade-distorting subsidies in developed countries to provide a level playing field and fair market access to the developing countries; (iv) strengthening rural infrastructure

(especially farm to market roads, rural electrification, schools and health facilities); (v) addressing land tenure and land right issues (including those of women and indigenous people); (vi) strengthening early warning capacities against natural disasters; (vii) developing and applying agricultural research efforts to increase crop productivity; (viii) providing selective financial incentives and services (e.g. micro credit) in key areas to empower people and to help communities in generating more income and employment for themselves; and (ix) improving linkages with other sectors of economy, particularly water and energy.

- **Biodiversity:** (i) empowering people and communities dependent on biodiversity for their livelihoods and supporting those affected by its loss; (ii) protecting and using indigenous knowledge and compensating the indigenous people for its use; (iii) recognizing the economic, cultural and spiritual values of biodiversity; (iv) shifting the focus from addressing the proximate causes of biodiversity loss, to a long-term strategy for dealing with root cause of the problem (e.g. address the issue of production and consumption pattern); and (v) improving the public knowledge and recognition of the importance of biodiversity conservation in terms of basic and daily needs of the people.

B. Outcomes of the High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

The High-level Regional Meeting, held at Phnom Penh from 27 to 29 November 2001, adopted the Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific, as an essential input to the WSSD from the Asia-Pacific region. The purpose of the meeting was: (i) review the progress of implementation of Agenda 21; and (ii) identify key policy issues, priorities, goals, constraints and actions in respect of sustainable development in the region, to be presented to WSSD. The heads of delegations also reiterated their commitment to: (i) Rio Declaration of 1992; (ii) the Programme for the

further implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly in 1997; (iii) Malmo Ministerial Declaration; (iv) Barbados Declaration on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing Countries; and (v) Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000.

The heads of delegation, made a strong case for drawing global attention and support for promoting sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region backed up with hard data. They affirmed the critical role of Asia-Pacific region in promoting global sustainable development. It was emphasized that with over half of the world's population (54%) and largest concentration of world's poor people who earn less than US\$1.00 per day, most diverse ecology and economy under threat of environmental degradation, poverty, social instability and insecurity, global sustainability hinges critically on the sustainable development in Asia-Pacific region.

The Regional Platform identified the overarching priority issues in sustainable development which are multisectoral and cross-cutting in nature embracing the environmental, economic and social dimensions. It advocated development should promote economic growth and social security with special emphasis on poverty eradication, environment management and good governance. It reiterated maximizing the positive impacts and minimizing the adverse impacts of globalization on the developing countries of Asian and the Pacific.

Among the sectoral priorities the Regional Platform recognized the following: (i) sustainable energy development; (ii) agriculture and food security; (iii) human settlements development (including provision of livelihood and the basic infrastructure); (iv) sustainable consumption and production patterns; (v) human development; and (vi) coping with natural disasters. On environmental and natural resources issue the Regional Platform recognized: (i) land and biodiversity; (ii) oceans and coastal resources; (iii) freshwater

resources; (iv) energy and mineral resources; (v) atmospheric and climate change; and (vi) island vulnerability. On cross-cutting issues regional priorities were assigned to: (i) policy challenges for sustainable development; (ii) institutional reform and governance; (iii) capacity-building; (iv) enabling informed decision-making; (v) technology transfer; (vi) promoting participation and partnership with nine major groups³; and (vii) ensuring gender equality and gender justice.

Having identified the regional priorities under of various categories, the Regional Platform then moves on to identify seven regional initiatives as a follow-up to the high-level regional preparatory meeting for the WSSD. Prior to these, the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment had been adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in 2000. This currently ongoing initiative aims at improving quality of life and human health in the urban centres of the region. The time frame for implementation of Kitakyushu Initiative has been designed as 2000-2005, where achievements will be reported at the ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005.

C. Post-Summit relevant forums

1. Outcomes of CSD11

Having received renewed support from WSSD, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) at its eleventh session (CSD11) held in New York in April/May 2003 decided to formulate a multi-year programme of work beyond 2003. Accordingly, it approved a programme for review and implementation of JPOI as shown in Table 2.

CSD11 decided that its two-years' "Implementation Cycles" will comprise a "review session" in the first year and a "policy session" in the second year. The "review session" for a period of 2-3 weeks will evaluate progress of implementation of Agenda 21 and JPOI, to exchange regional experiences, to share lessons learned, with a view to facilitate implementation. The focus of the "policy sessions" will be to take policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation of the selected thematic cluster of issues. It is expected that the review and policy sessions would mobilize all actors to overcome any obstacles/constraints in the implementation of action plans. CSD11, further decided to invite the Regional Commissions to consider convening, in collaboration with the secretariat of CSD and other regional and subregional organizations and bodies, Regional Implementation Forum (RIF) to contribute to the work of CSD in accordance with the relevant provisions of WSSD outcome. CSD11 recommended that such RIF may be held prior to the CSD review sessions, preferably in conjunction with the annual sessions of the regional Commissions focusing on the thematic cluster of issues determined by CSD for that implementation cycle. CSD11 finally decided to strengthen the contributions of major groups' involvement in the work of the CSD and stressed that partnership on the basis of voluntary initiatives undertaken by the Governments and the major groups and stakeholders should be further encouraged.

2. Outcomes of the ESCAP Commission Session

The Commission, during the second phase of its fifty-ninth session in September 2003, also reviewed the regional follow-up to the JPOI of the WSSD. The Commission supported the efforts of the secretariat particularly its capacity building programme for sustainable development undertaken through training workshops, advisory services, experts meetings and exchange of best practices, stressing further that these efforts should be continued. The Commission also lauded the progress

³ According to United Nations definition, major groups include: women, children and youth, indigenous people, NGOs, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, scientific and technical communities and farmers.

Table 2 Multi-year Programme of Work of CSD 2004-2017^a

| Cycle | Thematic cluster |
|-----------|---|
| 2004/2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - water - sanitation - human settlements |
| 2006/2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - energy for sustainable development - industrial development - air pollution/atmosphere - climate change |
| 2008/2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agriculture - rural development - land - drought - desertification - Africa |
| 2010/2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - transport - chemicals - waste management - mining - a ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns |
| 2012/2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - forests - biodiversity - biotechnology - tourism - mountains |
| 2014/2015 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - oceans and seas - marine resources - small island developing states - disaster management and vulnerability |
| 2016/2017 | Overall appraisal of implementation of Agenda 21, the programme of further implementation of Agenda 21 and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. |

^a The cross-cutting issues involved in each of the thematic clusters are: (i) poverty eradication; (ii) changing unsustainable pattern of consumption and production; (iii) protecting and managing the natural resources base of development; (iv) sustainable development in a globalizing world; (v) health and sustainable development; (vi) sustainable development of SIDs; (vii) sustainable development of Africa; (viii) other regional initiatives; (ix) means of implementation; (x) institutional framework; (xi) gender equality and (xii) education.

made so far in the implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment especially in the implementation of pilot projects and case studies which are demonstrating best practices for sustainable urban environmental management. The Commission recognized that the seven regional initiatives in the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific captured the regional priorities and concerns

and were clearly echoed in the JPOI. It decided to implement the programmes in conformity with the decisions in the JPOI. In line with the decision of CSD11 wherein it rightly emphasized the role of regional commissions in the implementation of the Plan of Implementation, it also decided to convene regional implementation forums in close collaboration with other United Nations organizations, such as UNDP, UNEP as well as

the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). It also urged the secretariat to mobilize additional resources to translate the outcome of the WSSD into concrete action and full implementation. Furthermore, the Commission recognized the critical need for the active participation of the major stakeholders in the implementation of the plan while acknowledging the primary role of Governments. It endorsed the initiative to organize a regional senior officials forum to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the JPOI in the region.

3. UNEP Governing Council

The UNEP Governing Council, at its annual session held in February 2003, adopted twenty-four decisions on subjects ranging from early warning, assessment and monitoring, water policy and strategy, global programme of action for the protection of marine environment, promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns, environment and cultural diversity to a long-term strategy to engage and involve young people in environmental issue. Among many important recommendations was the more involvement and interaction of UNEP with WTO on determining the environmental impacts of trade with a view to minimize the adverse impacts of trade on the environment.

4. The Third World Water Forum

The Forum held in Kyoto in March 2003 chose as many as 38 themes to discuss. Some of the major themes were: water supply, sanitation, hygiene and water pollution; water, nature and environment; water and cities; water and climate; water and poverty; water and governance; integrated water resources and basin management; financing water infrastructure; water and energy; water and transport; and agriculture, food and water. The Forum made several recommendations on each of the themes which was a step forward in delineating actions in various areas. However in terms of JPOI in the water sector, the Forum did not seem to make any significant headway.

The Forum ended with a shopping list of future conferences under the title: "things to look for."⁴

D. Correlations and Gaps

In identifying correlations among the JPOI, the Regional Platform and the outcomes of other relevant implementation forums, in particular CSD11, it is important to recognize that all of these deal with the issue of sustainable development; however, they deal with actions at various levels and focus on somewhat different mandates from their governing bodies. A comparative study of the outcomes also reveal that both at the global as well as the regional level, the Governments are talking about implementing the WSSD outcome as well as Agenda 21 as one package. However, it has to be kept in view that "Agenda 21" was the product of a global conference on "environment and development" in 1992, whereas the "JPOI" is the outcome of a global conference on "sustainable development" (which is equivalent of "development and environment"). A careful analysis of the outcomes of the two will reveal that the Earth Summit (of 1992) was more environment-focused whereas the WSSD (of 2002) is more development-focused. It is not only that the emphasis on the issues at the two summits were different, but also that additional themes (such as globalization, international trade and security) found prominent places on the agenda of WSSD. Although both the summits were convened by the same entity of the United Nations, the role and responsibility of United Nations agencies, bodies and other organizations were somewhat different (e.g. consider the role of UNEP, UNDP, WTO, development financing institutions and private sector in both the summits). Moreover, although both summits identified action agenda, the priority of WSSD was on implementation with some time bound targets and goals.

⁴ International Institute for Sustainable Development, *Forum Bulletin*, Vol. 82, No. 8, 25 March 2003.

In terms of outcomes of the global and regional forums, one finds a fairly close correlation. Both in JPOI and the Regional Platforms member Governments agreed that poverty, underdevelopment, environmental degradation and socio-economic inequalities are the major challenges to sustainable development. This also reaffirms the hypothesis put forward by the WSSD that global sustainability is critically dependent on meeting these challenges in Asia-Pacific region. The "Johannesburg Commitment on Sustainable Development" reflects, to a considerable extent, the political sentiment expressed at the High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit in Phnom Penh. The two pronounced chronic poverty as an unacceptable human condition, recognized the need for grabbing the opportunity of globalization to promote sustainability of development by minimizing the adverse impacts and maximizing the positive impacts of globalization. Likewise, the JPOI together with the Secretary-Generals' initiative on WEHAB also encompasses the "follow-up action" suggested in the Regional Platform. The WSSD's programme on changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production is essentially linked with cleaner production and also with action on climate change. Similarly, protecting and managing the natural resources as an important element of the JPOI fully supports the regional initiatives on land management and biodiversity conservation as well as protecting the oceans, coastal and marine resources. Finally, capacity building at the regional level relates closely to the Institutional Framework of the JPOI.

In terms of gaps, a possible missing link between the JPOI and Regional Platform is in the area of health. WSSD has rightly identified "Health and sustainable development" as a priority policy action area at the global level. On the thematic areas of action identified by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and reflected in his WEHAB proposal "health", again, received priority attention. In fact, during the WSSD the U.S. Government announced its intention to spend US\$2.3 billion on health and as many as 16

Type II partnerships for health projects were announced (see Table 1). Perhaps it is because ESCAP already had a major programme on human health. With the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) taking centre stage at the global health issue in 2003, the ESCAP secretariat is already undertaking projects on this priority issue of the region.

The second "gap" has to do with regional and subregional cooperation among the international organizations, NGOs and the Governments. At the WSSD the world leaders stressed the importance of regional cooperation as a key factor in the success (or otherwise) of the JPOI.⁵ In recommending measures for regional follow-up, WSSD suggested that "the outcomes of the Summit should be effectively pursued at the regional and subregional levels, through the regional Commissions and other regional and subregional institutions and bodies". It also recommended that "intraregional coordination and cooperation on sustainable development should be improved among the regional commissions, United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, regional development banks, and other regional institutions and bodies". The WSSD recommendation implies (but falls short of stating categorically) that the responsibility of coordinating the efforts of all stakeholders at the regional level rests with the regional commissions – being the regional arm of the United Nations.

While increasing efforts to strengthen regional coordination among ESCAP, UNEP, UNDP, ADB and others are ongoing, much more remains to be done. While heads of the organizations of the Governments and agencies agree on most issues at the stage of actual implementation of programmes, the task managers from the same agencies may or may not collaborate. The reasons vary from task managers' attitudes to conflicting or duplicative mandates of the organizations given

⁵ <http://www.un.org/events/wssd/summaries/envdevj31.htm> "World Leaders Stress Importance of Regional Cooperation as High-level Segment of World Summit Continues" Department of Public Information, United Nations New York. 3 September 2002.

by the same Governments.⁶ This appears to be a gap in implementing the regional follow-up action agenda.

Finally and most importantly, there is always a huge gap of “financing” between the plan of action approved by the Governments – one reason as to why a substantial part of any action plan remains unimplemented and are carried over to the next plan. Despite special meetings to discuss the financing issues, such as the “Monterrey Consensus”, the global community has failed to produce results. The issue has been discussed over and again, with the same result – a huge financing gap. Time is ripe that both the ambitious Governments and resource-crunched international organizations take a hard look at the total resource availability and the potential for raising “new

and additional funds”.⁷ One way to generate additional funds is by reducing/deleting ongoing programmes.⁸ Governments, development financing institutions, United Nations and Non-United Nations organizations involved in promoting sustainable development in Asia-Pacific should consider a high-level meeting to discuss: (i) selecting priorities within priorities; (ii) creating stronger partnerships which utilize multi-faceted measures of financing and utilizing human skills (Type II partnerships); and (iii) reach policy agreements/decisions to divert some resources from other sectors (e.g. from urbanization – through a policy of development of smaller growth poles in rural areas). Stakeholders should learn to live with smaller number of action programmes which will have long-term sustainability of natural resources with economic and social development.

⁶ For example, implementation of the regional follow-up actions contained in this publication (if approved by the Governments) should be the responsibility of all stakeholders. And yet, the onus normally falls on ESCAP on the ground that other organizations have their own action programmes approved by their respective governing bodies. This could be one important reason why “human health” is omitted from the regional platform which is normally perceived as the responsibility of WHO.

⁷ A preliminary analysis has shown, much of funds committed at the WSSD (in Table 1) are not “new” or “additional”.

⁸ A small but good example is the decision taken at CSD11 to terminate the work of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and add that work to CSD.

II. ANALYTICAL REVIEW OF POLICIES AND PRIORITIES

A. Global Goals and Targets

Many of the global policy issues and thematic priorities have been delineated in the previous section while discussing the outcomes of WSSD and CSD11. Nevertheless, to make the discussion of analysis of policies and priorities a comprehensive one, a brief analysis of global policies and priorities particularly agreed goals and targets will be presented for establishing key linkages with the regional and subregional processes and to assist in project formulation at the regional and subregional levels.

1. Poverty eradication

Poverty eradication⁹ has been identified in WSSD as the prime policy agenda of the global community in promoting sustainable development. World leaders at WSSD agreed to halve the proportion of population who earn less than US\$1/day by 2015. However, the decision to establish a world solidarity fund to eradicate poverty was somewhat weak. First, it is expected to be voluntary in nature; second, the modalities are to be determined by the General Assembly; and third, creation of such fund, it was suggested, should avoid duplication of existing United Nations funds and encourage private sector and individual citizens in funding the endeavours. Other means to eradicate poverty were suggested: build basic rural infrastructures and health services for all, provide access to agricultural resources to the poor, especially to women and indigenous community, increase access to water supply and sanitation. So that by 2015, proportion of world population who do not have access to safe drinking water supply and sanitation is reduced to half. Increasing and improving access to safe and reliable sources of energy and industrial development that helps people out of object poverty were also recommended.

⁹ Asia-Pacific region considers "poverty alleviation" as the central theme for action, as a more pragmatic approach.

2. Sustainable Consumption and Production

WSSD determined the present patterns of consumption and production are unsustainable and must, therefore, be changed. It further recommended a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards a more sustainable pattern. There are five major reasons why consumption patterns should be reexamined and changed to promote sustainable development: (i) eco-efficiency alone cannot meet the natural resources appetite following current consumption pattern; (ii) consumption is the key to understanding policy change needed as it focuses on the demand side; (iii) focus on consumption enables look at what is being consumed and how consonant it is in meeting the basic needs of the people; (iv) a close look at consumption will illustrate vividly that the poor not only consume less but also pollute little; and (v) analysis of consumption can reveal the problematic relationship between economic growth, satisfaction of basic needs and human aspirations. Aside from a moral reason for some people to cut down consumption of food to allow others to come out of malnutrition and hunger there is a logic and scientific reason for such action. There are about 1.3 billion people in this world who earn less than US\$1.00 per day; most of them are likely to suffer from malnutrition and ill-health. At the same time, there are about 1.2 billion people (mostly in developed countries) who are obese and are sick or less productive. Therefore, reducing consumption patterns of the developed countries is likely to benefit people from both developed and developing countries. Similarly, the current production process has five basic problems which needs to be overcome: (i) using materials and process causing environmental degradation and health hazards; (ii) inefficiency of the production causing system loss and environmental degradation; (iii) failure to reflect negative externalities in product cost; (iv) subsidies of energy, water and fertilizers which mostly benefit the non-poor; and (v) transaction costs are significantly higher for the poor. Concrete steps are needed to minimize

the above problems.¹⁰ Although, several global studies on consumption and production exist, a regional analysis with data from Asia-Pacific is warranted to identify the problems and issues and to come up with specific recommendations for actions to effect a change.

3. Protecting and Managing the Natural Resource Base

The third global priority issue is protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development. This includes a whole range of environmental issues discussed at the Earth Summit in 1992 and reiterated at the WSSD. The global community recognized that resources of the environment are also the resources for development. It also recognized that environmental management does not mean management of the environment; it means management of the development activities within the assimilative capacity of the environment (the air, water and land ecosystems). One of the significant outcomes of the global debate on this issue was setting goals and targets on environment protection/restoration. For example JPOI sets several targets such as introducing application of ecosystem approach by 2010; maintaining/restoring fisheries stock to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield, not later than 2015; establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international laws by 2012; make every effort to achieve substantial progress of implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based sources by 2006; improve access by developing countries to affordable, accessible, cost-effective, safe and sound environmentally sound alternatives to ozone depleting substances by 2010; and implement the Convention on Biological Diversity by significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010.

¹⁰ D.V. Smith and K.F. Jalal (2000): *Sustainable Development in Asia*, published by the Asian Development Bank.

4. Maximizing the Benefits of Globalization and Minimizing Its Adverse Impacts

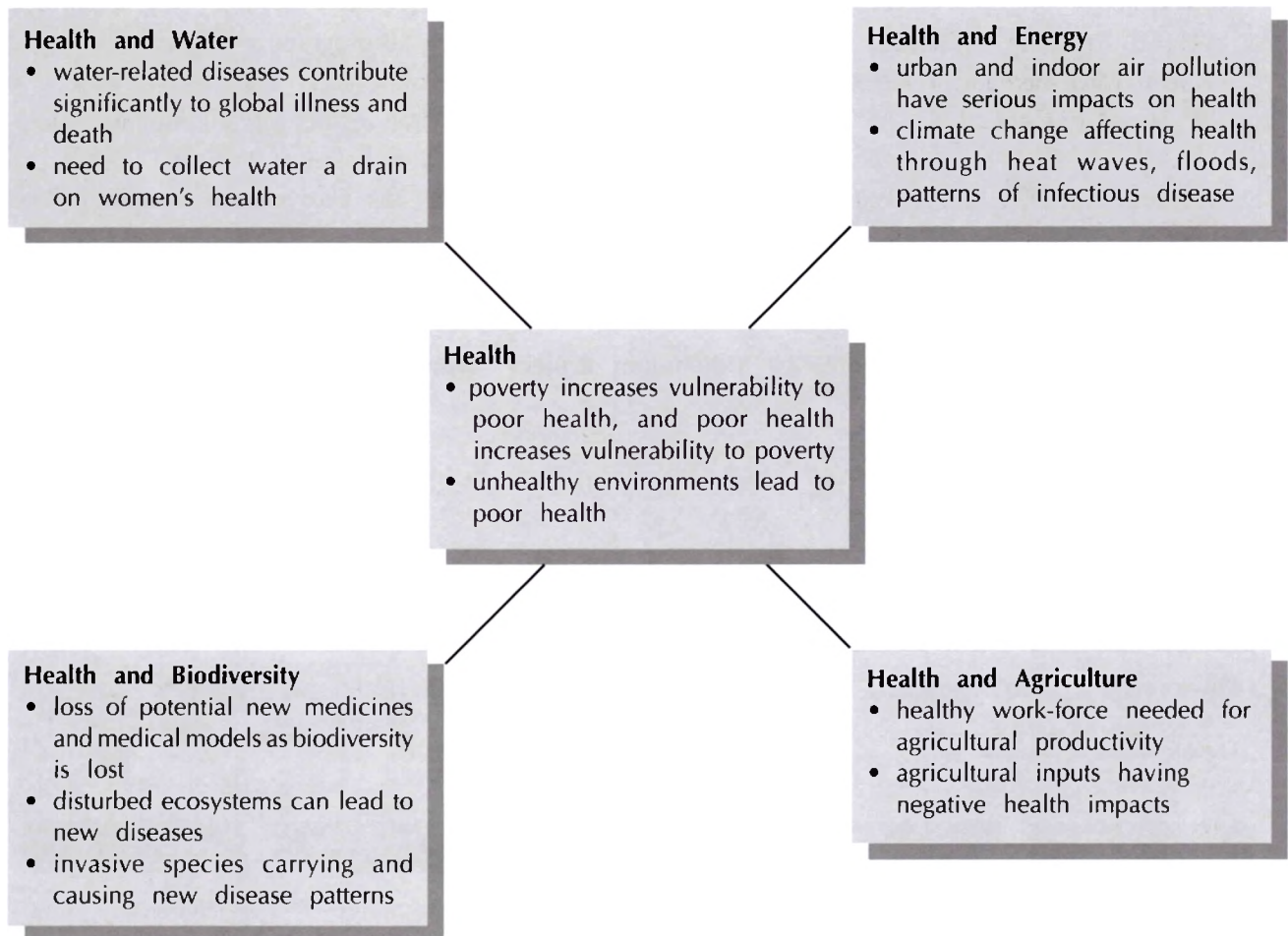
The policy prescription here was to support a globalization process which should be inclusive and equitable, formulated and implemented with the effective participation of the developing countries and countries with economies in transition. WSSD recommended promoting open, equitable, rules-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading, enhance capacities of developing countries to benefit from liberalized trade opportunities, implement the outcomes of the Doha Ministerial Conference on Trade and Development and strengthen capacities of developing countries to encourage public-private partnerships.

5. Protecting Human Health

Protecting human health was highlighted as one of the priority themes of the Secretary-General's proposal (WEHAB); at the same time it was also pronounced as one of the policy priorities of JPOI. Since development is for and by the people, it is not surprising that both WSSD and WEHAB emphasized protection of human health is such a high priority issue in the global agenda. Particularly with HIV/AIDS, SARS, all forms of water and airborne diseases in Asia-Pacific, human health should be attached higher priority than it has since received. Some examples of the critical role of health in WEHAB priority areas are depicted in Figure 1. Although concerted action on health over the past decades has led to significant improvements, the situation still remains precarious. Currently, at the global level:

- More than 2 million children under age 5 die each year due to diseases wholly preventable by vaccines;
- Acute respiratory infections account for nearly 2 million people dying of pneumonia; and now SARS has surfaced as the most severe threat to mankind, in the absence of any known treatment or vaccine, so far;
- Diarrhoea kills 1.5 million people every year;

Figure 1 Examples of the Critical Role of Health in WEHAB Priority Areas



Source: WEHAB Working Group (Aug. 2002): A Framework for Action on Health and the Environment

- Non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular, cancer and diabetes and chronic respiratory illness (such as due to smoking), currently contribute to 60 per cent of global deaths and are expected to account for nearly 80 per cent of the global burden of disease by 2020.

The above set of statistics explain why human health has been assigned such a high priority in the global initiative on sustainable development on human health. The JPOI made many recommendations on human health; however, no time frame was set for their implementation except for HIV/AIDS (prevalence among young men and women aged 15-24 should be reduced by 25 per cent in the most affected countries by 2005 and globally by 2010).

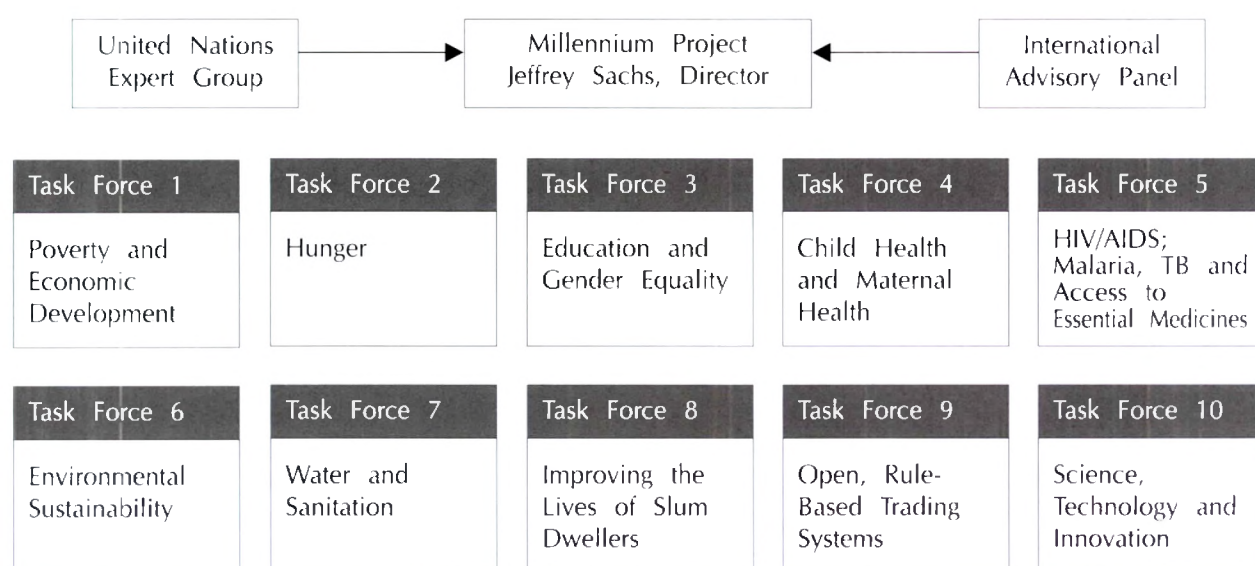
The other priority issues discussed at the WSSD were the sustainable development of the various regions, including Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, West Asia and Europe. Even though small island States are part of the action plans developed by the various regions, a special consideration was given to them as a group of vulnerable states throughout the world. Even though they are characterized by several regional features, they share certain problems due to their isolation (from mainland continents), vulnerability (to natural disasters), fragility of ecosystems (land-based, in particular), development and supply of freshwater and sustainable development of energy and transport.

6. WEHAB and MDGs

The above priorities have been reinforced by WEHAB and MDG initiatives. As discussed earlier, a set of five thematic priorities were proposed by the Secretary-General at the WSSD, which are: (i) water and sanitation; (ii) energy; (iii) health; (iv) agriculture; and (v) biodiversity. WSSD also identified a set of actions in each of these WEHAB

programme areas. Having received endorsement from WSSD and some financial and resource commitment, especially through Type II partnerships, the WEHAB programme seems to be taking off. At the same time, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has already initiated implementation of a Millennium Project consisting of 10 task forces, as shown in Figure 2 below:

Figure 2 Millennium Project Structure



The main goal of the research project is to identify the operational priorities, organizational means of implementation and financing structures necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).¹¹ The task is huge and complicated. The deadline for completing the study and presenting the findings and recommendations to the Secretary-General is 30 June 2005. The task will be carried out by two groups: the United Nations Experts Group and an International Advisory Panel under the leadership of Prof. Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University, New York who serves as Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on MDGs.

As a guideline for developing national programmes of action using the outcome of WSSD, it may be useful to analyse the linkage of the WEHAB programme with the five major policy prescriptions of WSSD (please see matrix in Annex II). The global priorities suggest for example, that it will be prudent for a country to develop the energy sector in such a way that it reduces poverty, protects the environment and human health, takes advantage of globalization and provides some means and incentive to change the pattern of production and consumption. Similarly, development planners must aim to provide basic water supply and sanitation and health facilities, develop agriculture and protect biodiversity with a view to reducing poverty, changing consumption production patterns, protecting the environment

¹¹ For details of MDG goals, targets and indicators, see Annex II. (www.unmillenniumproject.org/html/dev_goals.shtml)

and human health, and maximizing the benefits of globalization. The matrix guides the development planners in asking right kind of questions in developing national action plans as a follow-up of WSSD.

B. Subregional Issues

The regional policies and priorities distilled from various subregional meetings and high-level conferences had culminated into the Regional Platform which had identified several priority issues and initiatives discussed earlier. While these priority issues would still be the primary basis for regional action for implementation, it would be important to review some of the work done earlier at the subregional level so that priorities and initiatives could also be identified at the subregional level.

1. Earlier Work

Important among earlier works were: the State of the Environment Report (ESCAP, 2000); *Asia-Pacific Environment Outlook 2* (UNEP, 2002); *Asian Environment Outlook* (ADB, 2001); *"Rural" Asia* (ADB, 2000) and also *Building Capacity for a Sustainable Future* (UNDP, 2000).

The *State of the Environment Report, 2000* (SOE) prepared with the initiative of ESCAP began with a prediction and fear¹² that WSSD may turn into "a reprise of Rio+5" unless effective regional and subregional cooperation is promoted, which is vital for a coordinated response to global initiatives. The shrinking flow of financial resources and technology transfer from developed to developing countries and unfavourable trade regime, the study revealed, require enhanced regional unity, which became the theme of the report and a principal message conveyed through it. The report reviewed the prevailing conditions of environmental resources of the region and subregions comprising land, forest, biodiversity, freshwater, marine and coastal resources and

atmosphere. It then identifies, very importantly, key emerging issues of impact of deteriorating environment and resources on human health and well-being, which is the primary purpose of sustainable development. Regional, subregional and national response and actions are also described. In a nutshell, the environment and development trends in Asia and the Pacific (from 1995-2005) are presented by subregions (Table 3). This shows that in terms of environmental trends, although South Asia seems to be deteriorating fastest, other regions are also not doing so well. Pollution level is at its worst in South and South-East Asia where air and water pollution are going from bad to worse and solid wastes generation and disposal is creating severe problems. The overall socio-economic trends are mostly improving in South-East Asia, whereas the other subregions are struggling to catchup. In line with the challenges of sustainable development in Asia-Pacific region, the report identified six areas of policy and programmatic action as follows: (i) environmental quality and human health; (ii) globalization and policy integration; (iii) energy efficiency and the promotion of clean technology; (iv) poverty reduction strategies; (v) strategic environmental management (integrating economic and environment policy, setting clearly defined goals, influencing new investment and technology choices and promoting non-regulatory mechanism including supply chain management); and (vi) governance, institutions and capacity-building. These priority issues tally well with the regional issues covered in the Regional Platform. However, the issue of human health, which finds a prominent place as regional priority in SOE does not surface so prominently in the Regional Platform. Furthermore, the priority issues in SOE are more leaning towards policy integration and not so much on environmental issues which indicates a change of focus away from strict environmental issues, as is expected.

¹² Expressed in the very first page (introduction) of a report of over 500 pages.

Table 3 Environment and Development Trends in Asia and the Pacific, 1995-2005

| Socio-Economic Trends | South Asia | | North-East Asia | | South-East Asia | | Pacific | | Central Asia | |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| | 1995-2000 | 2000-2005 | 1995-2000 | 2000-2005 | 1995-2000 | 2000-2005 | 1995-2000 | 2000-2005 | 1995-2000 | 2000-2005 |
| GDP growth | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▼ | ▲ |
| Population growth rate | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ |
| Incidence of poverty | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▲ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ |
| Urban growth | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Slums and squatters | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Life expectancy | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Infant mortality | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ |
| Traditional diseases | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▲ | ▼ |
| Modern diseases | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Child undernourishment | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Nutrition | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Natural disaster losses | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |

Sources: Asian Development Bank and ESCAP

Note: ▲ Increase ▼ Decrease ▲ Slight increase ▼ Slight decrease ▲ No change

Red color shows deteriorating trend; Green color shows improving trend;

GDP and urban growth have not been indicated by red or green color because their impact can be good or bad

| Environmental Trends | South Asia | | North-East Asia | | South-East Asia | | Pacific | | Central Asia | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| | 1995-2000 | 2000-2005 | 1995-2000 | 2000-2005 | 1995-2000 | 2000-2005 | 1995-2000 | 2000-2005 | 1995-2000 | 2000-2005 |
| Arable land per capita | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ |
| Land degradation | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Desertification | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Deforestation | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Tree plantation | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Loss of habitat and species | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Water consumption | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Marine resources loss | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Commercial use of energy | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Food security | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ |
| Resource use by industry | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Environmental degradation by tourism | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Freshwater pollution | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Coastal pollution | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Air pollution | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Greenhouse gases | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Solid waste generation | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Agro-chemical use | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Pollution by energy generation | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Vehicular pollution | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Industrial pollution | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |

Sources: Asian Development Bank and ESCAP

Note: ▲ Increase ▼ Decrease ▲ Slight increase ▼ Slight decrease ▲ No change

Red color shows deteriorating trend; Green color shows improving trend;

Table 3 Environment and Development Trends in Asia and the Pacific, 1995-2005 (continued)

| Environmental Policies/Actions | South Asia | | North-East Asia | | South-East Asia | | Pacific | | Central Asia | |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| | 1995-2000 | 2000-2005 | 1995-2000 | 2000-2005 | 1995-2000 | 2000-2005 | 1995-2000 | 2000-2005 | 1995-2000 | 2000-2005 |
| Public authorities action | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↕ | ↑ |
| Business sector's response | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↕ | ↑ |
| Environmental monitoring and research | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↕ | ↑ |
| Environmental education and awareness | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |
| Activities of major groups | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |
| International conventions [Participation] | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |
| Subregional cooperation | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |

Sources: Asian Development Bank and ESCAP

Note: ↑ Increase ↓ Decrease ↗ Slight increase ↘ Slight decrease ↕ No change

Red color shows deteriorating trend; Green color shows improving trend;

Given the above cited assessment, the ESCAP/ State of the Environment Report 2000 also identified the shared environmental problems and concerns at the subregional level. These identified issues are as follows:

(a) For North-East Asia, (i) atmospheric pollution; (ii) degradation of water quality; (iii) degradation of marine environment; and (iv) land degradation and biodiversity loss were key environmental concerns. The report also highlights the need for stronger subregional collaboration as problems of transboundary air pollution, acid rain and marine environment. The UNEP Asia and the Pacific strategy for 2003-2005 also identifies similar priority issues as in WSSD preparatory meeting.

(b) In Central Asia the eight environmental problems afflicting the region include (i) poor water management particularly the case of the Aral Sea; (ii) desertification and land degradation; (iii) loss of habitats and biodiversity; (iv) industrial pollution; (v) degradation of the Caspian sea; (vi) dangers from hydrocarbon production and mining activities; (vii) lingering effects of past legacies; and (viii) natural disasters. The report also cites that the environmental problems in the subregion are exacerbated by ineffective policies, particularly in agriculture, deficient

regulatory measures, and the economic policies that are biased towards the promotion of inefficient industries.

(c) For South Asia the shared environmental problems and priority action areas are: (i) land degradation; (ii) water scarcity and quality; (iii) deforestation and biodiversity loss; (iv) marine environment protection; (v) atmospheric pollution; (vi) deficient urban infrastructure; and (vii) natural disaster management. UNEP also identifies poverty, environmental degradation, climate change and natural disaster as the key issues to be tackled in South Asia to promote sustainable development. The two key subregional institutions active in promoting subregional cooperation are: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP).

(d) South-East Asia has the following shared environmental problems: (i) deficient urban infrastructure; (ii) deforestation and biodiversity loss; (iii) degradation of marine environment; (iv) forest fires; (v) atmospheric pollution; and (vi) land degradation. The report also cites the outlook for the subregion's sustainable development is bright, particularly with the level of cooperation and understanding among the countries, the economic development gained as well as the

ongoing efforts. The challenge in the subregion is to continue the development initiatives in a positive atmosphere of subregional cooperation but with vigilant eye on its fragile ecosystem, minimizing the possible adverse impact of development on the environment. According to an estimate¹³, the cost of environmental remediation in the subregion is about 5% of its GDP. Given the relatively robust growth rate and its level of cooperation, it should be possible to remedy the environmental problems caused mainly by development activities in the subregion. The same findings were cited by UNEP under the "Strategy for UNEP Asia and the Pacific 2003-2005" released in April 2003. While all of these priorities belong to the South-East Asian subregion, identified by the Governments and major groups at various times and various forums, a significant cooperative development is emerging in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) which is essentially a part of South-East Asia.¹⁴ Cooperation among GMS countries has a long history and based on development of Mekong river basin for the mutual benefit of some 250 million people, under the initiative of the participating Governments and financial and technical support of ADB.

(e) In the Pacific subregion, the common environmental concerns are (i) deforestation; (ii) loss of biodiversity; (iii) exposure to natural hazards; (iv) vulnerability to climate change; (v) pollution of freshwater resources particularly from mining, agro-chemicals and sewage; (vi) soil erosion; (vii) the lack of waste management; and (viii) lack of capacity for response. The report also cites that in addressing the specific concerns of countries in the region a subregional cooperation framework is established. Cooperation among the countries of the subregion is promoted through the Council for Regional Organizations of the Pacific (CROP). Member organizations of the CROP are: (i) South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);

(ii) South Pacific Forum (SPF), established in 1971 by independent and sovereign Governments of the countries of the South Pacific; (iii) Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) to ensure sustainable yield of fisheries resources; (iv) South Pacific Applied Geo-science Commission to provide advice on the environmental effects of coastal zone management, water and sanitation for local people, pollution and its impact on human health; (v) Pacific Community (PC) established in 1947 to provide sustainable development assistance to the countries of the subregion; the Pacific Islands Forestry and the Trees Support Programme exemplify typical activity supported by the PC; (vi) Tourism Council of the South Pacific (TCSP) promotes and markets tourism in the Pacific and, at the same time, conserve the environment; (vii) University of South Pacific which was established in Fiji in 1969 and conducts regional studies and research on agriculture, humanities, pure and applied socio-economic development; and (viii) Pacific Island Development Programme (PIDP) having 22 members including Pacific island developing countries and territories and implementing projects in a range of development issues throughout the subregion: Besides there are many other cooperation programmes under United Nations and non-United Nations (e.g. ADB, USAID) and other bilateral and multilateral organizations.

In April 2003 the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP) developed a "Strategy for UNEP Asia and the Pacific, 2003-2005". The four principal objectives of the strategy are: (i) assist implementation of national, sub-regional and global priority environmental programmes; (ii) establish an Regional Environmental Knowledge Centre (REKC); (iii) respond to emerging environmental issues in the region in cooperation with other relevant actors; and (iv) manage human, financial and physical resources to maximize effectiveness of delivery. One of UNEP's regional initiatives in 2003-2005 is the establishment of the REKC. The idea behind is to network with Governments, academic and research institutions to gather information and knowledge about thematic areas of environment

¹³ ADB (1997): *Measuring Environmental Quality in Asia*, Harvard University Press.

¹⁴ GMS comprises Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and Yunan Province of China.

(air, water, land and biodiversity) and about people and their environmental conditions and actions. This is supplementary to other regional initiatives such as Capacity 2015 of UNDP. In any environmental assessment of the region (including preparation of the State of the Environment reports), the key constraint is availability of authentic data and information. This long-standing gap in the region is likely to be fulfilled with such an initiative.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) carried out two implementation studies related to sustainable development in the region. Among these are: Sustainable Development in Asia 2000, (CSD 2000) and the Asian Environment Outlook 2001 (AEO 2001).

Modifying current measures by allocating more resources, by improving implementation of environmental actions or by making environmental regulation more stringent will not solve Asia's environment and development crisis unless there are changes in the basic policies and mind-set of people. It is with this view in mind that ADB published the AEO 2001. The report provides an overview of how and why environmental degradation has reached at such a high level in the Asian and Pacific region and identifies environmentally sustainable opportunities and options; it then discusses new policy integrations and options to remedy the situation. The study reveals that for too long "environment" has been treated as a "sector" rather than a "dimension" (to all sectors of economy). This has been the principal mis-conception and cause for environmental disasters for the Asian and Pacific region. Current policy and practice is for the Governments in the region to entrust one stand-alone environment ministry or agency with the entire responsibility of environment protection and management. Even under the best of circumstances, environmental agencies typically lack authority, influence or the resources to place the environmental issues on the agenda of national priorities. Environmental concerns, therefore, must be integrated across and within sectors and mainstreamed into the development policy and

planning at all levels. AEO 2001, essentially recommends a new approach of "policy integration"¹⁵ which will guide all environmental actions. It finally suggests that an abiding political will be essential for such policy integration in improving the environmental situation and promoting sustainable development in the region.

Sustainable Development in Asia published by ADB in 2000, recognizes the region as a continent of rapid change and great dynamism, with a long history of remarkable economic and social transformation. It recognizes the remarkable willingness of the people of the region to try new ways and to effect difficult changes in social relations and economic integrations among its people. In general, the Asian and Pacific region is rich in labour and poor in resources, which has significant implications in their choice of technology and comparative advantage in world trade; and yet countries often attach higher priority to labour productivity than the resource productivity. It looks at sustainable development as a process as well as a goal. Throughout the report, there is an emphasis on social dimensions of sustainable development – not only related to poverty and inequality – but also on local initiatives, participation, health, quality of life, social exclusion, gender and others. One of the principal thrusts of the study is to present numerous case examples of successful local SD initiatives throughout the region. The implications being that if SD can be a reality in so many Asian rural and urban areas, it should be possible to replicate them throughout the region and subregions. The study looks at the current patterns of industrial and agricultural production and identify the problems associated with them. It then recommends two sets of actions called: "the next industrial revolution" and "the Green Green (Green 2) revolution". The industrial revolution suggested treating "waste" as a form of unused resource, discouraging increasing use of toxic substances

¹⁵ "Policy integration" is defined here as the creation of policies, institutions and resources that allow the decision-makers to respond positively to pressures for enhanced environmental performance at the lower economic and social costs.

in the production process in the name of recycling and overcoming five basic problems of current industrial production. The Green 2 revolution recommends: (i) equity in availability to agricultural inputs to rich and poor; (ii) more emphasis on non-irrigated agriculture; (iii) integrated soil fertility and pest management; (iv) diversity in cropping; and (v) holistic and systems thinking. The study also analyses the current consumption patterns in Asia and the Pacific compared to the developed countries and concludes that no amount of eco-efficiency, recycling and reuse of resources could compensate for the natural resources appetite of the developed world. Consequently, the study recommends a change of consumption pattern on moral, logical and technical grounds to promote sustainable development throughout the region.

2. Subregional preparatory meetings to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

During the preparatory process for WSSD, five subregional meetings were also organized in Asia and the Pacific, including those in Central Asia, North-East Asia, South-East Asia and the South Pacific. These Meetings identified priority issues for their respective subregions.

(a) Central Asian Subregional Meeting

At the preparatory meeting of WSSD for Central Asia hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan (Almaty, 19-21 September 2001), the following subregional priority issues were identified: (i) waste management; (ii) air pollution; (iii) water pollution; (iv) land degradation; and (v) mountain ecosystem degradation. In a statement of NGO representatives to the subregional ministerial meeting, the report of the high-level meeting was criticized for not reflecting other priority issues: (i) transboundary water use; (ii) desertification and biodiversity loss; and (iii) energy efficiency and climate change. The NGOs also reported that the subregional consensus building process did not allow adequate public partici-

pation and consultation. Accordingly the meeting adopted six subregional action plans as follows: (i) regional waste management; (ii) air quality management and protection; (iii) water resources management and protection; (iv) sustainable land management; (v) mountain ecosystem management and protection; and (vi) strengthening public participation for sustainable development. In line with this action plan several key projects were identified.¹⁶

(b) North-East Asian Subregional Meeting

North-East Asia comprising China, Japan, Mongolia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation and having the largest population (1.5 billion) among the subregions met in Beijing, in July 2001, to discuss the priorities and action plans in preparation for WSSD. Among the major achievements of the subregion are the ratification, accession or acceptance of most of the multilateral environmental agreements and establishment of national institutional framework for promoting sustainable development. At the subregional level a number of cooperative institutions/programmes have been established: (i) North-East Asian Subregional Programme on Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC); (ii) North-East Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation (NEAC); (iii) Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP); (iv) Tumen River Area Development Programme (TRADP); and (v) North Asia-Pacific Environment Partnership (NAPEP). The first two institutions are high-level intergovernmental machineries to promote broader cooperation among the North-East Asian countries; the third and the fourth are thematic programmes of cooperation and the last one is a NGO-Government partnership network. Major thrusts of thematic cooperation in the subregion where some progress has been achieved are: energy/environment and desertification and deforestation. The key issues and

¹⁶ ADB (2002): Supporting Environmental Cooperation in Central Asia.

challenges identified at the subregional preparatory meeting were: (i) atmospheric pollution; (ii) degradation of freshwater resources; (iii) degradation of marine environment; (iv) desertification and deforestation; (v) loss of biodiversity; (vi) natural disasters; (vii) development of renewable energy; (viii) cleaner production; and (ix) monitoring and assessment. The social and economic challenges in the subregion were identified as: (i) poverty; (ii) food security; (iii) population and urbanization; (iv) industrialization and globalization; (v) participation of social groups; (vi) capacity building; (vii) governance and legal instruments; and (viii) changing consumption patterns.

(c) South Asian Subregional Meeting

The South Asian countries meeting in Sri Lanka (September 2001) identified four thematic areas of priority for the subregion: (i) poverty elimination; (ii) managing population growth; (iii) conserving natural resources; and (iv) building macro-economic stability. The meeting recognized the interdependence of these issues and therefore the need for an integrated approach to action. The meeting felt many of the global "promises" were unfulfilled, which is a reason for failure of sustainable development in South Asia. In order for SD to become a reality in South Asia, there is an urgent need for: (i) increase of ODA flows to developing countries; (ii) increased flow of additional investment to developing countries of South Asia from multilateral environmental agreements; (iii) increased foreign direct investment in poor developing countries; and (iv) increased technology cooperation, which has essentially been a non-starter for poor developing countries. The meeting however recognized the policy short-comings within the countries of the region, particularly the worsening governance situation, "essentially because of mutual distrust and threats from internal and external sources". Another major reason as identified by the meeting was institutional failures within and among South Asian countries, lack of political stability, failure of command and control regimes

and negative externalities (which ignore cost to the environment). To reduce poverty, the meeting suggested a three-prong approach to ensure: (i) food-security through sustainable food production and distribution strategies; (ii) income security by promoting micro-financing and establishing stronger links between small-scale enterprises and large industrial and commercial operations; and (iii) security from natural disasters by strengthening disaster preparedness and mitigation measures, rehabilitation of disaster victims on a timely manner and through large-scale coastal reforestation, construction of shelters etc. Similarly for securing macro-economic stability it was suggested to promote technology cooperation (e.g. by creating a South Asian Technology Bank), building a subregional trading bloc (e.g.; by establishing a South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA) and by creating a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA)). Yet another suggested measure for building macro-economic stability in the subregion was to reduce dependence on external assistance and consider setting up of a South Asian Development Bank for the poorest subregion with equity contribution from member countries, multilateral institutions and the private sector.

(d) South-East Asian Subregional Preparatory Meeting

The ASEAN report to the WSSD indicated 10 key priority areas for strengthening collaboration among the countries of South-East Asia. These are: (i) sustainable forest management; (ii) sustainable management of parks and protected areas; (iii) freshwater resources; (iv) coastal and marine environment; (v) land and forest fires and transboundary haze pollution; (vi) public awareness and environmental education; (vii) promotion of environmentally sound technology and cleaner production; (viii) urban environmental management and governance; (ix) sustainable development monitoring and reporting/database harmonization; and (x) multilateral environmental agreements. Figure 2 depicts the institutional framework within ASEAN which is responsible for implementing the priority programme as above.

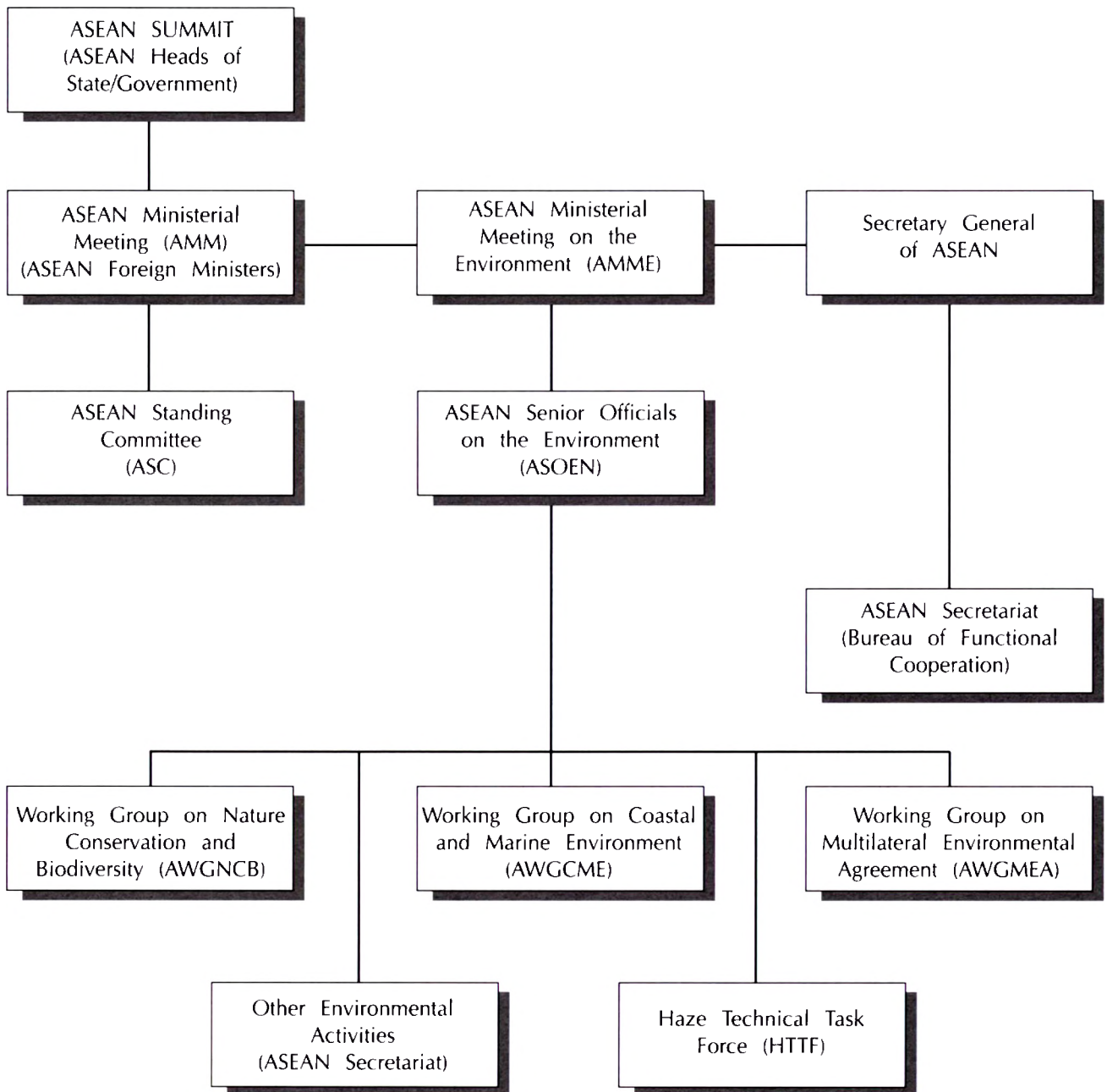
The South-East Asian preparatory meeting for WSSD was held in Manila, Philippines, 17-19 October 2001 and hosted by the ADB. Ten priority issues were identified at this forum for the subregion. Even though they were somewhat similar to what was suggested upon in the ASEAN report, they had several new areas and also some renewed thrusts. These were: (i) urban planning and infrastructure development; (ii) land management and biodiversity protection; (iii) coastal zone management; (iv) air quality management and protection; (v) water resources management; (vi) science and technology for sustainable development; (vii) information network for sustainable development; (viii) policy reform; (ix) governance reform; and (x) emerging issues (including globalization and trade, biotechnology and intellectual property rights). One of the characteristic features of the South-East Asian meeting was identification of key policy issues, subregional goals for 2012, actions for implementation, institutional arrangements, financing and the role of major groups, in respect of each of the ten priority areas. This makes it easier to work out the details of actions/initiatives to be taken.

(e) South Pacific Subregional Preparatory Meeting

The South Pacific subregional preparatory meeting for WSSD held in Apia, Samoa in September 2001, identified the following as the emerging

issues and challenges for the subregion: (i) biodiversity conservation (through establishment of protected areas and genepools); (ii) protection of coastal environment including reefs and lagoons; (iii) management of solid wastes in urban areas; (iv) disposal of sewage in urban industrial area; (v) the growing scarcity of land; (vi) contamination of scarce ground water; (vii) improper management of liquid wastes; (viii) intensification of agriculture; (ix) overfishing of inshore areas; (x) need for alternative sources of energy; (xi) climate change, natural disaster and sea-level rise; and (xii) human resources development. In a statement to WSSD the countries of the Pacific subregion sought a renewed international commitment to sustainable management of coastal and marine environment, to protect biodiversity, overcome vulnerability of Pacific islands to the effects of global climate change, natural disasters, environmental degradation and its impact on human health. The countries as a group also agreed to take initiative on good governance, improve partnership with the civil society including private sector and develop and implement a capacity-building strategy. The UNEP regional strategy, along the similar line identified the following six priority areas for the South Pacific subregion: (i) climate change and sea level rise; (ii) water scarcity and degradation; (iii) soil degradation; (iv) deforestation and biodiversity loss; (v) degradation of marine environment; and (vi) increasing vulnerability to natural disasters.

Figure 3 ASEAN Institutional Framework for Environmental Cooperation^a



^a Source: ASEAN report to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

III. FOLLOW-UP REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL INITIATIVES

A. Regional initiatives

The Regional Platform has recommended a set of priority initiatives which the region should take in order to further promote sustainable development. These regional initiatives were duly endorsed by WSSD and thus, ideally regional follow-up to WSSD should comprise implementing the seven initiatives plus the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment adopted at the MCED IV. However, following the WSSD, a comparative study and analysis of the outcomes of JPOI, Regional Platform, CSD11 and those of other relevant forums has identified some correlations and gaps with regional significance. It was, therefore, considered relevant to take the results of Regional Platform one step ahead and identify limited number of subregional initiatives in each of the five subregions based on identified critical issues discussed in the previous section.

B. Subregional initiatives

This section accordingly identifies a few subregional initiatives which are: (i) within the priority issues already identified by the subregion; (ii) linked to some ongoing or planned strategy/action; (iii) manageable within the available resources (either committed or potential for commitment); and (iv) innovative. The selection of such initiatives by no means implies that implementation of a comprehensive action plan in respect of the five subregions identified by the Regional Platform and endorsed by the WSSD/JPOI will not be carried out. It simply would mean that considering the reality (e.g. resource availability, capacity, governance situation) these innovative, selected actions would: (i) lead the way towards progress of JPOI to be reported in 2012; and (ii) provide incentive to partners in development (Governments, international agencies, private sectors and NGOs) to forge cooperation in implementing a comprehensive agenda for action on a time-bound manner. It

also means that each country would develop national follow-up actions in accordance with the JPOI in the five thematic areas (WEHAB) and the five policy priorities (poverty reduction, change of consumption and production patterns, protecting and managing natural resources, minimizing adverse impacts of globalization and protecting human health). With the above considerations/criteria in mind, subregional initiatives have been identified with some details (e.g. objectives, goals and targets, programme details and implementation plan), for each of the subregions.

In implementing the regional follow-up actions, Governments in consultation and collaboration with the NGO and civil society will have to take the lead role. However, in the selected subregional initiatives identified in this publication, it is assumed that international/regional organizations and entities would play an important supportive role, particularly in so far as technical assistance and external financing are concerned. The key organizations in the region are the ones which joined hands in a Task Force organizing the five subregional preparatory processes and the Regional Platform meeting: ESCAP, UNDP, UNEP and ADB. Other global regional/subregional organizations/institutions may also be involved in the implementation of the selected subregional initiatives.

Capacity-building for sustainable development should continue to remain as a broad-based regional initiative taken by the member Governments at the highest level to be discussed at the next annual session of ESCAP. Current initiative under the funding and technical support of UNDP is a good starting point. A reformulated project with progress report and further plan of action coordinated and executed by UNDP in consultation with ESCAP, UNEP and ADB may be reviewed by the Regional Implementation Forum (RIF) as suggested by CSD11. A brief description of this regional initiative was presented by UNDP at the Bali meeting (also at: <www.undp.org/capacity 2015>). The aim of this initiative is to build capacity among the developing countries to meet their sustainable development goals and

the MDGs at the local level. Recommendations of a study by UNDP/ESCAP entitled “Environmental Governance for SD in Asia and the Pacific” to improve environmental policy: institutions and legal framework will also be taken fully into account.

The so-called WEHAB initiative taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations should also remain as the thematic priority of the region. A brief report of the regional progress of implementation in the areas of water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity, in respect of each of the countries should also be prepared and reviewed by the RIF for its comments and recommendations. Such country reports should try to link the outcome of WSSD follow-up activity with the MDGs.

1. Central Asia

Central Asia may like to take at least two initiatives on: (i) Regional Environmental Action Plan (REAP); and (ii) Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), in addition to the two broad-based regional initiative on capacity-building and the Secretary-General’s WEHAB initiative.

REAP was initiated by the Governments of Central Asia with the financial and technical support of ADB and UNEP¹⁷. Central Asia has a long background of bilateral and multilateral support for environmental cooperation which ended up with formation of several institutions and conventions. These are: (i) International Fund for the Aral Sea (IFAS), which is mandated to formulate policies related to water resources and environmental management of Aral Sea. The operational objectives of IFAS was to implement interstate activities on water resources, desertification control and biodiversity protection. Currently, IFAS is implementing the Water and Environment Management Project co-financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF); (ii) the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination

(ICWC), which is the first post-Soviet water institution for integrated water management of Amu-dariya and Syr-dariya rivers; (iii) the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD) with the main purpose of coordinating and managing cooperation on sustainable development including development of subregional strategy and action plans; (iv) the Scientific Information Centre (SIC) is a network of scientific organizations of Central Asia and supports ICWC and ICSD with scientific data and information; (v) the Regional Environment Centre (REC), which was established in November 1999 when the Ministers of Environment of Central Asia signed a protocol on the establishment of a REC; and (vi) the Agreement on cooperation in the field of environment protection and rational nature use. From all of these it appears that there are too many institutions and protocols/agreements, which certainly indicates the political will of the Governments; unfortunately, however, behind their public face of reforms, today environment and water management in Central Asia remains in the old style. Considering this, it seems there is a need for consolidation (and not proliferation) of institutions for environment and water management in the Central Asia; and also for strengthening capacity-building and mobilizing financial resources both external as well as internal.

Consequently, with the principal financial and technical assistance of ADB and UNEP, REAP was launched (in 2001) with identification of five priority areas (air pollution; water pollution; land degradation, mountain ecosystem degradation and waste management), specifying priority actions in each of the priority areas and formulate a list of potential projects (a total of 29 projects were identified). While this initiative is well thought out and comprehensive, it is only the beginning to an end of environmental management of the Central Asia.

IWRM is identified as another priority initiative of the Central Asia. Water management problems in Central Asia are complex and critical. The rapidly shrinking Aral Sea, the dying caviar

¹⁷ ADB (2002) Supporting Environmental Cooperation in Central Asia.

trade in the Caspian sea, the highest water stress region of Asia, and the variety of problems of shared water resources of some of the longest river systems in the world (including the Irtysh river, which is the longest river in Asia and Amudariya-Syr-dariya river system) pose a serious challenge and threat to peace and stability in the subregion. The subregion, which is larger than India, Pakistan and Bangladesh combined, bordering Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, China and the Russia Federation, is very significant for global economy and security. The subregion is rich in hydrocarbon deposits and has a potential of being an alternative source of supply to the Middle East in coming decades. Resolving the problem of integrated water management in the subregion is, therefore, essential for promoting regional cooperation and understanding and minimizing the potential global and regional risks.

The subregional initiative to address the problem would be an IWRM Programme in Central Asia which will focus on the formulation of a subregional strategy on the rational use of water (and energy in the form of hydropower) in Central Asia. The initiative should also aim at heightening public awareness on the benefits of IWRM, sharing good practices and lessons from basin organization; building-capacity in implementing IWRM and fostering subregional and international cooperation (especially with China) for improved management of transboundary river basins. The initiative should finally, aim at improving the quality and expanding the delivery of water services (both for irrigation and domestic consumption) in the subregion. A network of Asian river basin organizations should also be established with a view to promoting better cooperation and understanding among countries of Central Asia which should extend to all other river basin countries in Asia (particularly in the Indus and Ganges basins of South Asia and Mekong river basin of South-East Asia). The initiatives are already supported by ESCAP and ADB and stand a greater chance of success if the Governments continue to stand by their share of commitment of political, technical as well as domestic resources.

2. North-East Asia

North-East Asia is ideally suited to take lead initiatives in three areas: (i) cleaner production; (ii) transboundary air pollution; and (iii) desertification and land degradation. The North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) should take the lead role (as it has already done in the past) in the initiative and develop detailed work plan in the three thematic areas mentioned above. Four regional/subregional centres/programmes should also play key supportive roles: (i) North-East Asian Centre for Pollution Reduction in Coal-fired Power Plants; (ii) ESCAP Asian and the Pacific Centre for Technology Transfer (APCTT); (iii) UNEP/International Clean Production Information Clearinghouse; and (iv) ADB/Asia Pacific Round Table on Cleaner Production.

As North-East Asian countries are industrializing, cleaner production (CP)¹⁸ becomes a priority issue. Initially command and control approach was applied to control industrial pollution. Despite such measures many industries and factories in North-East Asia, (particularly in China, Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) were deficient in pollution abatement equipments and knowledge about effluent management. In particular, the small and medium-sized factories (a very large number of them) with limited access to cleaner production technology created a severe problem of air and water pollution. Subsequently, the countries also realized that the problem of pollution is rooted in inadequate plant and production process management and that end-of-pipe solutions cannot address the problem by itself. Thus the initiative of CP was considered essential. CP has several advantages such as reduced O and M cost and greater profitability through increased production efficiency, improved public image, better financing prospects, reduced occupational hazards and increasingly stronger

¹⁸ Clean production is defined by UNEP as the continuous application of an integrated preventive environmental strategy applied to processes, products, and services to increase overall efficiency and reduce risks to humans and the environment.

competitive position of products in international trade. The concept of CP goes beyond the industry into non-industrial sectors such as tourism, agriculture, finance and legal liability.¹⁹

The transboundary air pollution initiative in North-East Asia has already been taken by ESCAP in cooperation with ADB which is currently being implemented by NEASPEC. This initiative may also address the sustainable energy development in conformity with the Bali Declaration on Energy and Sustainable Development 2000. Among the critical issues to be considered under the initiative are: (i) indoor and urban air pollution due to fossil fuel burning; (ii) availability and accessibility to the poor; (iii) development of cost-effective renewable energy; and (iv) increasing energy efficiency and demand side management. In North-East Asia, with the exception of Japan, inefficient industrial production and energy generation of the subregional member countries have resulted in high levels of atmospheric pollution in major cities causing severe health damage to the urban population.²⁰

Desertification and land degradation, particularly in China and Mongolia, are the most severe of all problems of sustainable development. North-East Asia, having the highest population of all subregions (1.48 billion people), extensive land degradation due to loss of soil fertility by salinization and dust storms pose a food security threat in the subregion. China alone has 262 million hectares of land (27% of total land area of China) affected by desertification (moderate to severe degree). Moreover, land degradation in Mongolia and northern China has assumed a transboundary problem because of yellow dust storms, which can increase suspended particles in the atmosphere and travel all the way up to the Korean peninsula and Japan. Also to solve the problem of deforestation in the subregion a joint initiative and action should be taken in

accordance with the recommendations of the "Forest Law Enforcement and Governance: East Asia Ministerial Conference" held in 2001 in which all countries (both exporting and importing) should take actions through subregional and multilateral collaboration in combating deforestation in the subregion. This component of initiative should be coordinated with the Asia Forest Partnership (AFP) launched by Japan and supported by ADB, as a follow-up of WSSD.

3. South Asia

At the South Asia subregional preparatory meeting for WSSD held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the countries decided to initiate joint action on poverty reduction and food security. With high population and its growth, industrialization and urbanization and consequent natural resources depletion and degradation, South Asia should also initiate a programme on creation of public awareness and promotion of public participation in all development projects, programmes and policy formulation.

An initiative on poverty reduction and food security begins with experiences within the region (and, in particular, in South Asia) which reveal that income and food security are the two essential elements of poverty reduction in Asia. A poverty reduction initiative should first identify the poor, their needs and aspirations and then suggest way and means to meet them. As mentioned in the Regional Platform, there are four categories of poor people in the region: (i) the poor, marginal farmers and landless labourers living in highly productive lands; (ii) the poor living in less productive land in arid and semi-arid areas; (iii) the urban poor; and (iv) the coastal poor. The Platform also prescribed both policy and operational initiatives for poverty reduction. Finally the Platform suggests eight priority actions for reducing poverty. The South Asia preparatory meeting for WSSD also recommends various action points to ensure income security (e.g. through promoting links with urban centres and industries, enhancing the role of the private sector as an

¹⁹ ADB (2001): *Industry and the Environment in Asia: Obstacle to change and a Regional Strategy for Rapid Adoption*.

²⁰ ESCAP (2000): *State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific*; p.374 (North-East Asia).

engine of growth and means for employment and facilitating reforms in financial and capital market sectors) and food security (e.g. by emphasizing food self-sufficiency as a means of reducing poverty, forming cohesive group of small farmers, ensuring accessibility and affordability of inputs and mitigating natural disasters).

According to the World Bank, between 1990 and 1998, South Asia accounted for more than 60% of deaths related to natural disasters worldwide. Countries in South Asia may, therefore, take the lead in developing country strategies and policies for natural disaster mitigation as an integral part of poverty reduction. According to a regional report on natural disaster management published by ADB, as much as 10% of the GDP of a developing country could be wiped out by a single event of natural disaster. Therefore, developing countries of Asia should not only formulate national strategies and policies, but also prepare action plans for preventing natural disasters through large-scale afforestation (including the mangroves in coastal areas), rehabilitation of degraded lands, construction of shelters to minimize loss of lives and other long-term measures. The action plan should also include ways and means to ensure timely availability of relief and rehabilitation to disaster victims. Countries could seek assistance from ADB in both developing strategies and policies and implementing action plans along the lines described above, when natural disasters strike them.²¹

The report of the South Asian subregion for the WSSD documents many case studies of successful efforts of Governments, civil society (especially NGOs and media) in creating public awareness on the concepts and challenges of sustainable development.²² South Asia may also, therefore, continue its ongoing initiative of creating

²¹ ADB has a regional policy on disaster rehabilitation. As an important member of a World Bank consortium on prevention (pro-active prevention) of natural disasters, ADB also is ready to assist the countries in implementing action plans, as and when countries request for assistance.

²² ESCAP/UNEP/UNDP/ADB (Sept. 2001) South Asia Sub-regional report for the WSSD; Annex VIII.

public awareness and promote people's participation in sustainable development efforts in the region. In this programme the need for promoting participation at the local level through decentralization of authority and resources is considered important. Participation²³ in this context has four distinct components: (i) information sharing; (ii) consultation; (iii) collaborative decision-making; and (iv) empowerment. Information sharing is essentially a one-way flow of information from the project proponent (usually the Government or the private sector) to the stakeholders.²⁴ It is done through the dissemination of written materials translated into local languages and informational meetings. Consultation is a two-way flow of information where project proponents invite stakeholders for consultative meetings (such as town hall meetings), radio call-in shows and field visits. Collaborative decision-making includes participatory assessments and evaluations, meeting to help build consensus among stakeholders,²⁵ public review of documents and their revisions etc. Finally, empowerment, which is an essential element of participation, includes decentralization and delegation of authority, strengthening stakeholders organizations with technical, financial and legal support, if needed, and creating an enabling policy environment. A programme of action for promoting public awareness and participation should incorporate all the four components mentioned above. The benefits, which outweigh the costs/risks of participation are listed in table 4, which should be kept in full view while designing an action programme.

²³ Participation is defined as a process through which stakeholders participate and influence development initiatives, decisions and their outcomes.

²⁴ There are four categories of stakeholders in a project. (i) Primary stakeholders: those directly affected (adversely or favourably); (ii) Secondary stakeholders: those interested in the project with linkages to primary stakeholders (NGOs, private sector, technical experts); (iii) Borrowing stakeholders (Governments of borrowing countries); and (iv) Financing stakeholders (lending agencies including finance ministries of Governments).

²⁵ "Consensus building is a process of seeking unanimous agreement among a group of stakeholders; it involves good-faith effort to meet interests of all." The Consensus Building Handbook: Prof. Lawrence Susskind et. AL., The Consensus Building Institute, Cambridge, Mass., USA.

Table 4 Benefits and Costs/Risks of Participation in a Project

| Benefits | Costs/Risks |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves quality of project • Enhances sustainability • Accelerates implementation • Strengthens local ownership and commitment • Increases resources (cost-sharing) • Enhances social capital | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time and resource consuming (initially) • Logistically/organizationally troublesome • Groups may not be representative • Conflicts may be aggravated • Expectations may be raised (and not met) |

4. South-East Asia

Considering the policy and programme priorities of South-East Asia, it appears that the region looks towards South-East Asia for providing leadership in three areas: (i) sustainable development of urban areas; (ii) globalization and its impacts; and (iii) strategic environment frameworks for ecologically sensitive areas of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS).

Sustainable development of urban areas may include urban infrastructure development and managing its impact on the environment and human health. Infrastructures include, primarily, the basic ones: water supply, sanitation and waste disposal and development and use of energy. It also emphasizes the full implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative. South-East Asian countries need to develop and demonstrate to the rest of the region a more integrated approach to urban infrastructure development and minimize urban air, water and soil pollution. Also reliance on public sector to finance the entire urban infrastructure has frequently given rise to unsatisfactory delivery of environmental services. As already discussed at the South-East Asia preparatory meeting cities are classified into: Category I (over 10 million people), Category II (1-10 million people) and Category III (100,000-1 million people). It will then look into the key urban development and environment management issues and develop

action plans for each urban area with assigned priorities. The initiative should also encourage cities to prepare a work plan and budget for priority actions. The finance ministries of the Governments should be encouraged to submit the project proposals to ADB (or other development financing institutions) to provide financial resources for their implementation.²⁶

With the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO), globalization has become an important issue for the developing countries of the world. With the rapid industrialization and urbanization of South-East Asia, the issue has become particularly significant for the countries of the subregion, as was recognized at the WSSD preparatory meeting in Manila (2001). The key issue is how to maximize the benefits of globalization and minimize its adverse impacts on economies, ecology, society and culture of the developing countries? To cite an example, biodiversity in South-East Asia suffers from poor management. At the top of this, trade in endangered species of flora and fauna is a severe threat to the biodiversity of the subregion. Many species of plants and animals which are already endangered are being extracted from the remaining

²⁶ At the WSSD, ADB and UN Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) signed a letter of intent to collaborate on the "Water for Asian Cities Programme". The main objective of the programme is to facilitate project preparation and mobilizing financial resources to support urban water supply and sanitation projects to meet the MDG.

forests of the subregion to supply the demands of China, Japan and some parts of Europe.

The proposed initiative and action to deal with globalization and its impacts should be based on four pillars:

- *Respecting the existing environmental policies:* Trade measures pursuant to the Multilateral Environment Agreements should be consistent with WTO rules. Second, in the face of uncertainty, precautionary principle should be respected; and finally trade rules should support certification and eco-labelling to allow countries to move towards more sustainable patterns of production and consumption;

- *Making trade policy more transparent and participatory:* The initiative should build on the work of UNEP and WWF in this area; UNEP has recently published a manual on the integrated assessment of economic, environmental and social impacts of trade policies; and WWF has initiated a project on sustainability assessment of trade policies with a case study of the Philippines;

- *Strengthening consumer organizations:* Each country should have a network of consumer organizations by 2005; and

- *Strengthening small producers networks:* Agricultural communities in the subregion (and subsequently in the region) should form networks to protect the interests of small producers of major agricultural crops. Governments and civil society organizations may further support the networks starting in 2004.

On the basis of groundwork already done by ESCAP and UNDP on the globalization and its impact on the environment, these two organizations may be entrusted with assisting the countries in this initiative.

The third initiative is the Strategic Environment Framework (SEF) for GMS countries. Although this programme does not fully encompass South-East Asia, it is a significant initiative in which Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and Yunan province of China

are involved in promoting sustainable development. Governments of these six countries, with the assistance of ADB have already developed a SEF in 2002. During the second phase of SEF (2002-2012) Governments have decided to continue implementation of the recommendations of SEF during the first phase (1992-2002). During the period 2002-2012, GMS countries are expected to have an accelerated growth of infrastructure, particularly in the energy, transport and water sectors. The purpose of the SEF will be to integrate environmental and social concerns into the development projects – both national and transboundary. During SEF – phase I, a comprehensive database has been developed on: (i) a GIS with maps; (ii) analytical tools and best practice methodologies; (iii) environmental “hotspots” in GMS; and (iv) contact information of key stakeholders and experts.

One of the key elements of SEF, phase II, will be to protect and manage the GMS “hotspots”. In the SEF, “hotspots” are defined as an ecosystem relatively intact and/or areas largely inhabited by vulnerable group of people (indigenous and/or poor people) that are at high risk from environmental damage and social disintegration associated with existing or planned development activities, primarily transportation corridors and hydroelectric power projects. In the GMS, five priority hotspots have been identified:

- *Upper Mekong:* area comprising Lancang river basin with a cascade of nine hydropower projects (both existing and planned) having high potential for changing the hydrology and ecology of the Mekong river downstream. The area has at least two biodiversity conservation areas which may be adversely affected;

- *Golden quadrangle:* area covering the provinces of Chiang Rai, Thailand; Shan state, Myanmar; Bokeko and Luangnamtha provinces of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and southern Yunan province of China. These areas are globally known for the ethnic diversity of its indigenous people who depend on an increasingly degraded resources base;

- *Central GMS:* an ecologically sensitive

area and a centre of development debate with as many as 29 hydropower projects (built and planned);

- *Se San/Sekong*: second largest watershed in Mekong basin, this hotspot lies within Lao People's Democratic Republic, Viet Nam and Cambodia. Area comprises some primary forest least disturbed in the region with a diverse range of indigenous people, whose livelihood depend on fisheries; and

- *Tonle Sap*: Largest lake in South-East Asia and one of the most productive freshwater fisheries which has been declared as a biosphere reserve by UNESCO. Watershed area covers six provinces of Cambodia with a total population of 3.4 million. Water flow in Tonle Sap reverses seasonally, based on flow of Mekong river and therefore very sensitive to the change of river flow in Mekong.

Phase I of SEF made some strategic recommendations for action in respect of each of the five GMS "hotspot".⁴⁷ One of the objectives of SEF phase II should be to implement the strategic recommendations in respect of these "hotspots". The other objectives are to establish technical and procedural requirements for integrating environmental and social dimensions in all GMS projects, to strengthen subregional environmental information and monitoring systems and to foster broad stakeholders participation in all decisions concerning the sustainable use of natural resources in GMS countries. ADB should continue as the lead organization in implementing SEF, supported by ESCAP and UNEP in their areas of technical competence.

5. South Pacific

The South Pacific has always been regarded in the region as a special entity with a fragile ecosystem and different economic base and distinct socio-cultural background. It is, therefore, logical to have a Pacific Environmental Strategy. In the past, the South Pacific subregion has also taken a lead role in protecting and managing the marine resources and promote sustainable development of small island States. Waste

dumping in the oceans and coastal areas around the South Pacific and possible sea level rise due to greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in the world have also been of critical concern. Overfishing of inshore areas, pollution of reefs and lagoons were reported as some of the emerging issues and challenges at the WSSD preparatory meeting for the South Pacific held in Apia, Samoa (2001).

The Governments of the subregion with the technical assistance of ADB, backed by ESCAP and UNEP, are now in the process of finalizing a strategy. The objective of a Pacific Regional Environment Strategy (PRES) is to deal, comprehensively, with environment and development problems both at the country and at the subregional levels such as urbanization and waste management (country level), management of coastal and marine environment (regional level) and marine biodiversity conservation and climate change and its impact (global level). At the project level PRES will apply environmental safeguard policies and encourage all stakeholders to participate fully in implementing PRES. Mitigation measures will be built into the project design and the impacts will be closely monitored during implementation. At the national level all countries should formulate a WSSD follow-up action plan following the policy priorities and WEHAB (as per the format in Annex III). The time frame for PRES will be for five years beginning in 2005.

While PRES should assist in the overall sustainable development of small island countries, a special initiative to protect and manage coastal and marine ecosystems may be taken by the South Pacific subregion, with the assistance of SPREP in collaboration with UNEP and ESCAP. The emphasis of this initiative should be intraregional cooperation on conservation and management of marine biodiversity and prevention of hazardous waste dumping and control of marine pollution from land-based sources. The initiative would be effective in implementing the Waigani Convention and also the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Besides, it would also support a set of subregional action plans for the protection of the marine and coastal environment.

⁴⁷ Stockholm Environment Institute and ADB (2002): SEF for the GMS, Vol. III, GMS Hotspot profiles.

IV. MECHANISMS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL INITIATIVES

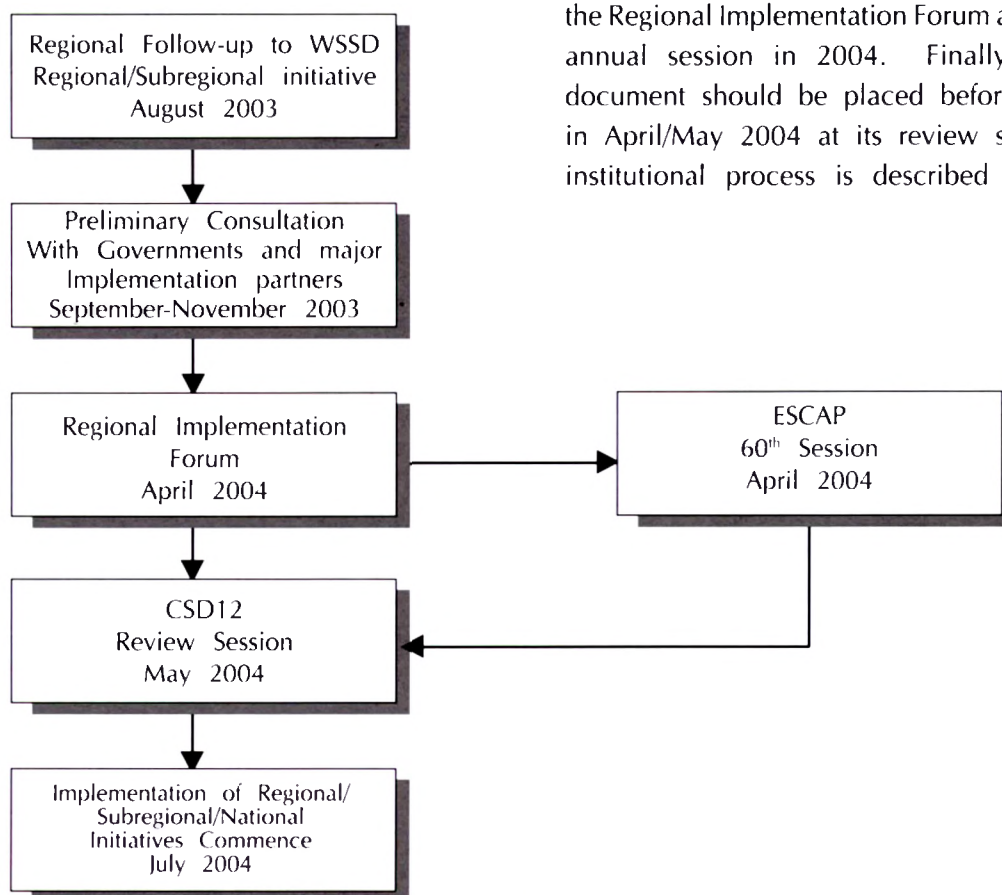
A. Institutional set-up

In outlining the implementation mechanism, it should be reiterated that for regional follow-up to WSSD, each country should have its own national strategies and action plans developed in accordance with the WSSD format aiming towards fulfilment of the MDG goals. For this, as well as for implementing the selected subregional initiatives elaborated in Section 4, different sets of institutional set-up, financial prospects and assessment and monitoring plan would be necessary. In this section, discussions will be limited to the implementation of selected subregional initiatives.

As an integral part of the Regional Platform, institutional mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels were defined. The key role at the national level would continue to be that of the Government with the support and collaboration of major groups. This role should be further

strengthened through promotion of good governance, including the participation of stakeholders. At the subregional levels, the role of intergovernmental organizations such as ASEAN, SACEP, NEASPEC and SPREP was emphasized. At that time discussions in the region did not fully consider institutional mechanisms at the global level as various possible options were being discussed.

In discussing the institutional set-up for implementation of regional follow-up to WSSD a process of its development is described in Annex IV. In this scheme, the Regional Platform with inputs from various organizations/meetings, including CSD11, WSSD, ESCAP annual session, UNEP/GC, ADB Strategies for Sustainable Development, constitutes the basis of the regional follow-up to WSSD. The recommendations and proposals for regional/subregional initiatives of the regional follow-up document should now go through various process beginning a consultation with major implementation partners including, ESCAP, UNEP, UNDP and ADB and with relevant regional and subregional intergovernmental forums. The proposals should then be placed before the Regional Implementation Forum and the ESCAP annual session in 2004. Finally the revised document should be placed before the CSD12 in April/May 2004 at its review session. This institutional process is described below:



B. Financing prospects

Financing sustainable development has traditionally relied upon official development assistance (ODA), foreign direct investment (FDI), contributions from multilateral and bilateral financing institutions²⁸ and, of course, domestic resources. ODA flow had decreased since the Earth Summit in 1992 and then had gone up slightly up to the Johannesburg Summit in 2002. FDI is not flowing to least developed and low-income developing countries because of lack of demand and also the risk involved. Furthermore, most developing countries either cannot afford to (or do not wish to) allocate domestic resources for environment management and sustainable development. Whereas the need for environmental remediation in most Asian developing countries are in the range of 3-5% of its GDP²⁹ the actual allocation of the budget is almost negligible. The only hope, therefore, is the financial support the countries may receive from the multilateral and bilateral agencies (both loan and technical assistance grants). Time and again, ESCAP, UNEP and United Nations headquarters have estimated financing gap in the range of several billion dollars every year.³⁰ To reduce the financing gap several suggestions were made, none of which have so far materialized. Among the suggested means of raising additional funds were: creating a regional environment facility (REF) to finance transboundary projects of regional significance, creating a common "sustainable development fund" in each of the countries, imposing tobin tax (on currency exchange), bit tax (on Internet use) and reducing military expenditure. Without being pessimistic, the chance of meeting the gap through the suggested means is small, given the donor fatigue and global economic and financial crisis.

²⁸ International Institute for Environment and Development (2002): Financing for Sustainable Development.

²⁹ K.F. Jalal and Peter P. Rogers (2002): Measuring environmental performance in Asia; *Journal of Ecological Indicators*, Vol. 2, 2002, pp. 39-59.

³⁰ The Regional Platform quoting an ADB (1994) estimate points to a financing gap of US\$12.9 billion per year in Asia-Pacific Region under business-as-usual-scenario.

As was rightly noted at the Regional Platform, the availability of financing from traditional sources will largely depend on the selection of action plans that would be implemented. It is also logical to consider that implementation of national action plans as follow-up of WSSD would largely depend on the mobilization of domestic resources. It is only the selected, prioritized, regional and subregional initiatives on sustainable development which should be financed and supported by the major regional donors/technical assistance agencies. In this context, the regional/subregional initiatives identified in this publication should receive the utmost support of organizations such as ESCAP, UNEP, UNDP and ADB. In fact, most of the regional/subregional initiatives identified in this publication have already received support from one or the other major regional organizations. As the region makes some progress on sustainable development of its own and with the help of traditional partners (ESCAP/UNEP/UNDP/ADB), there is little hope for the future. The first one is a hope of increase of ODA flow and other new and additional sources of financing discussed and agreed at the "Monterey Consensus". A second one is the formation of "Type II partnerships"³¹ which has emerged at the WSSD as a new hope of financing sustainable development.

C. Assessment and monitoring

Assessment and monitoring is an essential feature of implementation of any action plan. At the regional level, WSSD follow-up should be assessed by ESCAP by an evaluation exercise to be discussed and agreed upon among the subregional groups and the member countries. Each of the regional and subregional initiatives should be evaluated in terms of their technical progress, financing availability during a given year

³¹ Type II partnerships for sustainable development are specific commitments by various partners intended to contribute to and reinforce the implementation of the outcomes of inter-governmental negotiations. For more information on guiding principles of Type II partnership, please see Annex IV.

following an agreed format.³² In the evaluation exercise it may be useful to engage a small expert group drawing from ESCAP/UNEP/UNDP/ADB and representatives of Governments, NGOs and civil society as beneficiaries.

Since most of the initiatives are subregional, a focal point for monitoring the progress of implementation should be established in each subregion. The report of evaluation should then

be presented to the ESCAP Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development. The report of the Committee should be submitted to the Commission through the Regional Implementation Forum, which will make its observations and comments on the progress of initiatives. The Commission would also be briefed on the progress of implementation of the national action plans on WSSD.

³² For a possible format please refer to: "Environmental reporting and data harmonization" contained in the ASEAN Report to the WSSD (p. 38).

ANNEXES

Annex 1

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The eight Millennium Development Goals constitute an ambitious agenda to significantly improve the human condition by 2015. The Goals set clear targets for reducing poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women. For each Goal a set of Targets and Indicators have been defined and are used to track the progress in meeting the Goals.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

Target 1 Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

Indicator 1 Proportion of population below US\$1 per day (PPP values)

Indicator 2 Poverty gap ratio (incidence x depth of poverty)

Indicator 3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

Target 2 Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Indicator 4 Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age

Indicator 5 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

Target 3 Ensure that, by 2005, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Indicator 6 Net enrolment ratio in primary education

Indicator 7 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5

Indicator 8 Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds

GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

Target 4 Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education no later than 2015

Indicator 9 Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education

Indicator 10 Ratio of literate females to males 15-24 years old

Indicator 11 Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector

Indicator 12 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament

GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

Target 5 Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

Indicator 13 Under-five mortality rate

Indicator 14 Infant mortality rate

Indicator 15 Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles

GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

Target 6 Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

Indicator 16 Maternal mortality ratio

Indicator 17 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

Target 7 Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

Indicator 18 HIV prevalence among 15-24 year olds pregnant women

Indicator 19 Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate

Indicator 20 Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS

Target 8 Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Indicator 21 Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria

Indicator 22 Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures

Indicator 23 Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis

Indicator 24 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course)

GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Target 9 Integrated the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

Indicator 25 Proportion of land area covered by forest

Indicator 26 Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area

Indicator 27 Energy use (metric ton oil equivalent) per US\$1 GDP (PPP)

Indicator 28 Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) and consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs (ODP tons)

Indicator 29 Proportion of population using solid fuels

Target 10 Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water

Indicator 30 Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural

Target 11 By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Indicator 31 Proportion of urban population with access to improved sanitation

Indicator 32 Proportion of households with access to secure tenure (owned or rented)

GOAL 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Target 12 Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system [Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction - both nationally and internationally]

Target 13 Address the Special Needs of the Least Developed countries [Includes: tariff and quota free access for LDC exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction]

Indicator 33 Net ODA, total and to LDCs, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' G

Indicator 34 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health

care nutrition, safe water and sanitation)

Indicator 35 Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied

Target 14 Address the Special Needs of landlocked countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the 22nd special session of the General Assembly)

Indicator 36 ODA received in landlocked countries as proportion of their GNIs

Indicator 37 ODA received in small island developing States as proportion of the GNIs

Target 15 Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long-term

Indicator 38 Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and from LDCs, admitted free of duties

Indicator 39 Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries

Indicator 40 Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as percentage of their GDP

Indicator 41 Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity

Indicator 42 Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)

Indicator 43 Debt relief committed under HIPC initiative, US\$

Indicator 44 Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services

Target 16 In co-operation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

Indicator 45 Unemployment rate of 15 to 24 year olds, each sex and total

Target 17 In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies; provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries

Indicator 46 Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis

Target 18 In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

Indicator 47 Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population

Indicator 48 Personal computers in use per 100 population and internet users per 100 population

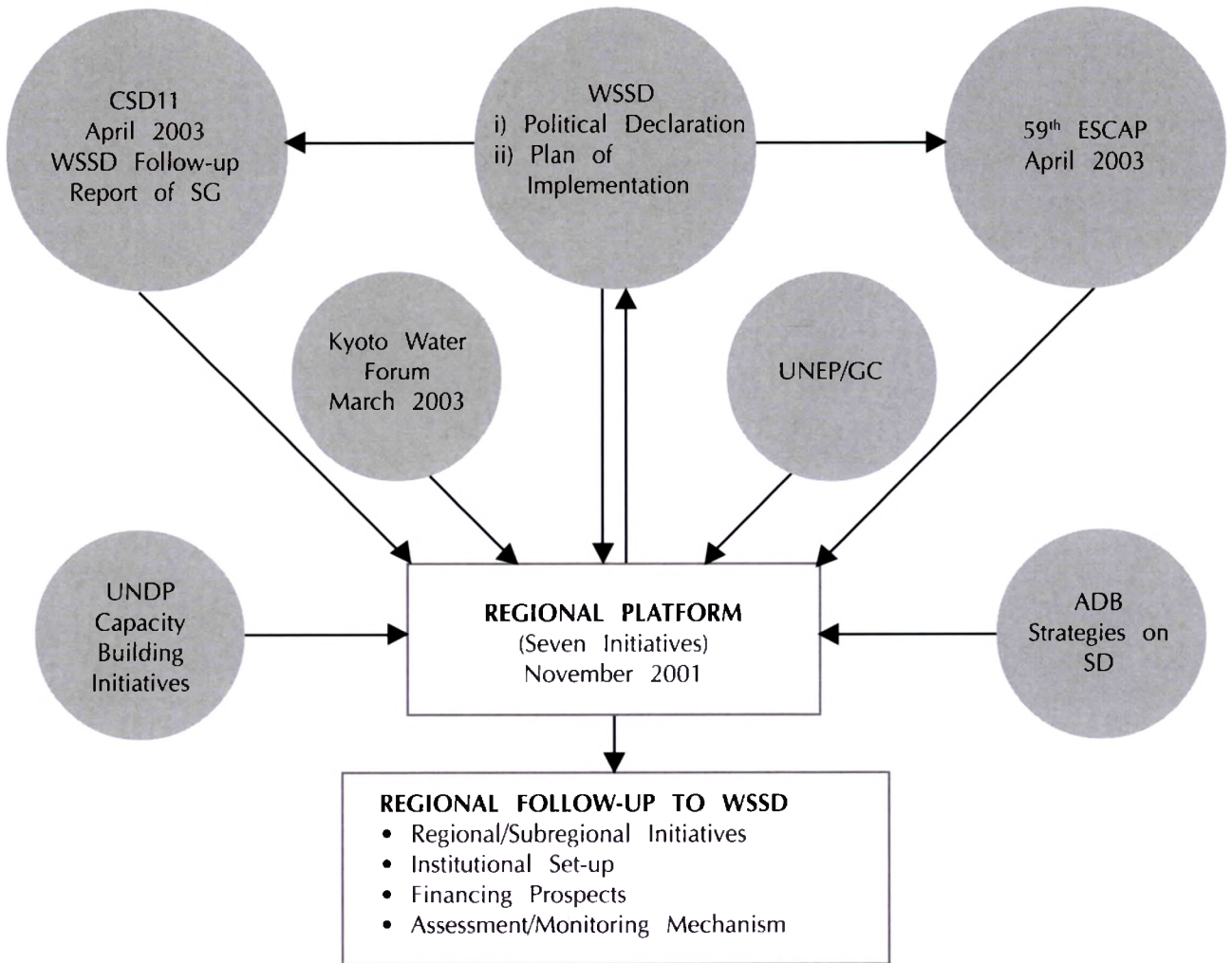
Annex II

MATRIX TO ANALYSE THE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE POLICY AND THEMATIC PRIORITIES OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

| JPOI \ SECGEN Proposed | Poverty | Consumption/ Production | Protection/ Managing HR | Globalization at SD | Health |
|------------------------|---------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Water and Sanitation | | | | | |
| Energy | | | | | |
| Health | | | | | |
| Agriculture | | | | | |
| Biodiversity | | | | | |

Annex III

DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



*Regional follow-up to WSSD document will primarily be based on the Regional Platform integrating appropriate inputs from WSSD (September 2002), Kyoto Water Forum (March 2003), CSD11 (April 2003) and 59th ESCAP (April 2003).

A

nnex IV

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR TYPE II PARTNERSHIPS

Background

In the context of preparations for the WSSD General Assembly Resolution 56/226 encourages "... global commitment and partnerships, especially between Governments of the North and the South, on the one hand, and between Governments and major groups on the other".

Decision 2001/PC/3, paragraph 10, adopted by the Organizational Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the WSSD states that Governments and major groups should "exchange and publicly announce the specific commitments they have made for the next phase of work in the field of sustainable development. In the case of major groups, commitments and targets are expected to emerge from national, regional and international consultations of major group organizations. A record of the commitments announced and shared would be made and released as part of the Summit outcome."

Following up on these recommendations, Vice-Chairs Jan Kara and Diane Quarless conducted a series of informal consultations during the third and fourth sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the WSSD, in order to exchange views on and find a common understanding for the scope and modalities of partnerships to be developed as part of the outcomes of the Summit ("Type II outcomes").

Based on these consultations, the following guiding principles for partnerships are suggested, which should be adhered to in the design and implementation of all partnerships to be recognized as part of the WSSD outcomes:

Objective of partnerships

Partnerships for sustainable development are specific commitments by various partners intended to contribute to and reinforce the implementation of the outcomes of the intergovernmental negotiations of the WSSD (Programme of Action and Political Declaration) and to help achieve the further implementation of Agenda 21 and the Millennium Development Goals.

Voluntary nature/respect for fundamental principles and values

Partnerships are of a voluntary, "self-organizing" nature; they are based on mutual respect and shared responsibility of the partners involved, taking into account the Rio Declaration Principles and the values expressed in the Millennium Declaration.

Link with globally agreed outcomes

Partnerships are to complement the intergovernmentally agreed outcomes of WSSD: they are not intended to substitute commitments made by Governments. Rather they should serve as mechanisms for the delivery of the globally agreed commitments by mobilizing the capacity for producing action on the ground. Partnerships should be anchored in the intergovernmentally agreed outcomes of WSSD (Programme of Action and Political Declaration) and help achieve the further implementation of Agenda 21 and the Millennium Development Goals.

Integrated approach to sustainable development

Partnerships should integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their design and implementation. They should be consistent, where applicable, with sustainable development strategies and poverty reduction strategies of the countries, regions and communities where their implementation takes place.

Multi-stakeholder approach

Partnerships should have a multi-stakeholder approach and preferably involve a range of

significant actors in given area of work. They can be arranged among any combination of partners, including governments, regional groups, local authorities, non-governmental actors, international institutions and private sector partners. All partners should be involved in the development of a partnership from an early stage, so that it is genuinely participatory in approach. Yet as partnerships evolve, there should be an opportunity for additional partners to join on an equal basis.

Transparency and accountability

Partnerships should be developed and implemented in an open and transparent manner and in good faith, so that ownership of the partnership process and its outcomes is shared among all partners, and all partners are equally accountable. They should specify arrangements to monitor and review their performance against the objectives and targets they set and report in regular intervals ("self-reporting"). These reports should be made accessible to the public.

Tangible Results

Each partnership should define its intended outcome and benefits. Partnerships should have clear objectives and set specific measurable targets and timeframes for their achievement. All partners should explicitly commit to their role in achieving the aims and objectives of the partnerships.

Funding arrangements

Available and/or expected sources of funding should be identified. At least the initial funding should be assured at the time of the Summit, if the partnership is to be recognized there.

New/value added partnerships

Ideally, partnerships for sustainable development should be "new", i.e. developed within the framework of the WSSD process. In case of ongoing partnerships, there has to be a significant added value to these partnerships in the context of the WSSD (e.g. more partners taken on board, replicating an initiative or extending it to another geographical region, increasing financial resources, etc.)

Local involvement and international impact

While the active involvement of local communities in the design and implementation of partnerships is strongly encouraged (bottom-up approach), partnerships should be international in their impact, which means their impact should extend beyond the national level (global, regional and/or subregional).

Follow-up process

Partnerships should keep the Commission on Sustainable Development informed about their activities and progress in achieving their targets. The CSD should serve as a focal point for discussion of partnerships that promote sustainable development, including sharing lessons learnt, progress made and best practices.

Opportunities to develop partnerships for sustainable development will continue after the WSSD. Submissions of partnerships after the Summit will be considered in the follow-up process.

