

Priority for action: Monitoring and assessment of land conditions and capability in developing countries; monitoring and assessment of tropical ecosystems including changes in forest cover; formulation and promotion of programme activities for sustainable management of soils, tropical forests, genetic resources and for combating desertification; development of environmentally sound farming and forestry practices, including agroforestry, integrated pest-management and proper use of fertilizers; prevention of post-harvest food losses; reutilization of agricultural and agro-industrial residues; development of appropriate international procedures and instruments for handling and use of and international trade in pesticides; promotion of implementation of national and regional plans of action following the World Conservation Strategy; protection of wetlands and the designation of biosphere reserves; promotion of planning of urban development taking into account the needs of agricultural development and conservation of natural resources;

(f) Population and human settlements

Trends and problems: Continued growth of human population despite some decline in the rate of world population increase; high rate of urbanization that outstrips the capacity of Governments to provide essential services in urban centre growth of slums; disruption of rural communities and major inadequacies in rural services; environmental degradation due to the distortion of traditional patterns of pastoral nomadism;

Priority for action: Research into the interrelationship between population growth and the environment; development and promotion of application of guidelines for environmentally sound planning of rural and urban settlements, including provision of services and infrastructure; improvement of methods for safe disposal and re-use of urban wastes; social and environmental support for the nomads;

(g) Health

Trends and problems: Continued massive prevalence of infectious and parasitic diseases, malnutrition, inadequate safe water supplies, and lack of sanitation and food safety in developing countries; increased resistance of pathogens or their intermediary agents to chemical control; increase in disease incidence associated with development schemes; increasing number and prevalence of potentially toxic chemicals and residual micro-pollutants in the living and working environments; illnesses related to life-styles and the working environment; continued danger from trade in hazardous substances and inadequacies in their safe disposal;

Priority for action: Development of environmental health measures, including methods for the environmental control of disease vectors and parasites, and for improvement of sanitation in settlements, and improvement of hygiene, especially in developing countries; continued monitoring, notably in GEMS, and preparation of procedures, principles and guidelines within the International Programme of Chemical Safety; development and promotion of the application of procedures, principles or guidelines for safe trade, handling and transport of hazardous substances and disposal of hazardous wastes; follow-up to list of dangerous substances and processes being prepared by UNEP;