

continue to play its role with regard to policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment, taking into account the development perspective.

21. Priority areas on which UNEP should concentrate include the following:

(a)(Agreed) strengthening its catalytic role in stimulating and promoting environmental activities and considerations throughout the United Nations system;

(b)(Agreed) promoting international cooperation in the field of environment and to recommend, as appropriate, policies to this end;

(c)(Agreed) develop<sup>ing</sup> and promoting the use of techniques such as natural resource accounting and environmental economics;

(d)(Agreed) environmental monitoring and assessment, both through improved participation by the United Nations system agencies in the Earthwatch programme and expanded relations with private scientific and non-governmental research institutes; strengthening and making operational its early warning function

(e)(Agreed) coordination and promotion of relevant scientific research with a view to provide a consolidated basis for decision-making;

(f)(Agreed) dissemination of environmental information and data to governments and to organs, programmes and organizations of the UN system;

(g)(Agreed) raising general awareness and action in the area of environmental protection through collaboration with the general public, non-governmental entities and intergovernmental institutions;

(h) further development of international environmental law, in particular conventions and guidelines, promotion of its implementation, and coordinating functions arising from an increasing number of international legal agreements, inter alia, the functioning of the secretariats of the Conventions, [taking into account the [need] [possibility and desirability] for them to be regrouped preferably at the same location]; *for the most efficient use of resources including possible co-location of secretariats in the future*

(i)(Agreed) further development and promotion of the widest possible use of environmental impact assessments, including activities carried out under the auspices of UN specialized agencies, and in connection with every significant economic development project or activity;