

We, the Ministers:

14. Commit ourselves to adopt an integrated approach to environment and development, and wherever possible and in accordance with our priorities and capabilities to incorporate environmental considerations into economic planning with a view to effecting the co-ordinated development of our economies and environment;
15. Believe that all economic and social development activities should meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;
16. Affirm the crucial importance of maintaining the proper balance between economic development, population growth, the rational use of natural resources and environmental protection;
17. Urge countries in the region to adopt effective and sound population policies and accompanying measures for that purpose;
18. Affirm that States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their social, economic and environmental policies, ensuring that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;
19. Believe that, to achieve sustainable development, policies must be based on the precautionary principle;
20. Affirm the important role of science and technology in economic development, environmental protection, promotion of human health and population planning, especially the popularization and wider use of related science and technologies, in particular in the rural areas in the developing countries, in achieving this goal;
21. Emphasize the need for all countries and relevant international agencies to intensify their co-operation to support and assist the developing countries of the region in such efforts;
22. Welcome and pledge our full support for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in 1992 and call for measures to ensure the full and active participation of ESCAP members and associate members in the preparatory process for the Conference, in particular the developing countries;