

Governing Council, at its Third Session, held from April 17 to May 2, 1975, requested the Executive Director to undertake a broad programme of promotion and coordination of the development and codification of environmental law, with emphasis on its preventive character, and in particular to provide technical assistance to developing countries at their request for the development of their national environmental legislation.

While the Governing Council at its Third Session concluded that it is premature to develop an international agreement on weather modification, a proposal by the Executive Director for a further meeting of experts on weather modification was approved. In preparation for the eventual development of weather modification guidelines UNEP will support World Meteorological Organization programmes for the augmentation of precipitation and the evaluation of weather modification experiments.

Also at its Third Session, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to establish an intergovernmental working group of experts, to be drawn from among member states of the Governing Council to prepare draft principles of conduct for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious exploitation of natural resources shared by two or more States. The origins of this subject are to be found in the failure of the Stockholm Conference in 1972 to include in the Stockholm Declaration a principle relating to the duty of states to notify and provide information to other states regarding activities which could have an extra-territorial adverse environmental effect. This subject was discussed further at the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly. At the Twenty-eighth Session, Resolution 3129 (XVIII) was adopted which included a formulation of the "duty to consult" principle in the context of "adequate international standards for the conservation and harmonious exploitation of natural resources common to two or more states...". This resolution requested the UNEP Governing Council to take duly into account these principles and "to report on measures adopted for their implementation...".

At its Second Session in 1974, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director in cooperation with other U.N. Organizations to