

to the damage caused and in accordance with their respective capabilities and responsibilities;

7. Recognizing the urgent need for all countries to intensify efforts to protect and improve the quality of the environment at national, subregional, regional and global levels, wherever relevant, by adopting an approach in which economic growth should be directed towards environmentally sound and sustainable development;

8. Recognizing further that the developing countries have specific concerns and needs which should be given special attention in any global effort for the protection of the environment;

9. Acknowledging the need to address the special environmental problems of small island developing countries of the region;

10. Stressing that the current international economic situation should be improved in order to remove obstacles hampering environmentally sound and sustainable development, particularly in the developing countries, with special attention to the least developed countries of the region;

11. Realizing that the majority of the developing countries in the region lack the necessary financial and other resources and technologies for them to participate effectively in the global and regional efforts for environmental protection;

12. Recognizing further the diverse economic conditions and consequently, the varying technological, financial and other capabilities of the countries in the region, and the opportunities arising therefrom for strengthening regional co-operation to achieve environmentally sound and sustainable development;

13. Reaffirming the objectives in the operative paragraphs 15 (j) and (m) of part I of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/228 on the need for new and additional financial resources and on favourable access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies, in particular to the developing countries, for achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development;