

1975

Report of Third Governing Council (April-May 1975):

"General Support was expressed for the activities proposed in the area of climatic change . . . for the programme proposed by the Executive Director in the area of possible risks to the ozone layer . . . emphasis should be given to techniques and instruments for the measurement of ozone levels and of the parameters affecting the ozone layer."

Decision 29, 2 May 1975: "requests the Executive Director . . . to treat the section of 'Outer Limits' as part of the functional task 'Environmental Assessment: Earthwatch';"

1976

Review of the Status of the Program (26 Jan 1976); this paper, prepared for the 4th Council session in April, outlined the UNEP strategy for "Risks to the Ozone Layer" based on three elements:

"(a) information will be compiled on the work so far done in monitoring the ozone in the stratosphere and the research aimed at assessing the risks to which the stratosphere is exposed;

"(b) a decision would then be made on the action to be taken to improve our understanding of the ozone processes and the effects of man's activities on the vital layer;

"(c) emphasis should be given to techniques and instruments for the measurements of ozone levels and of the parameters affecting the ozone layer.

"WHO has accelerated its ongoing activities related to the ozone layer. In particular, UNEP and ICSU were invited to participate in a session of a WHO working group on stratospheric and mesospheric problems. The session supported a proposal by UNEP to develop a programme which would contribute to the implementation of all the elements of the strategy. . . ."

The strategy called for a "state of the art review," a "coherent program of monitoring of total ozone and its vertical distribution, determination of long-term trends in exposure to UV radiation at the surface, identification of research gaps, and . . . examination, in the light of the review of the state of the art, of the need and justification for recommending any national and international controls over the release of man-made chemicals."

Detailed attention was given to aircraft, chemical fertilizers, and fluorocarbons. The OECD Environment Committee had already decided to collect data on the production and use of fluorocarbons in the OECD countries and the Executive Director had requested similar data from non-OECD countries.

Council Decision 65 (13 April):