

interests in a sufficiently wide context. States recognize that taking action on their own would condemn their industries to operating at an economic disadvantage. The only way to avoid this is to enter into regional agreements with which all have to comply, thereby maintaining a uniform base-line.

ACOP's main recommendations are summarized accordingly:

- a) Progress cannot be made in preventing and regulating land-based sources by merely extending the current regime (i.e. by adopting further regional and global rules based on the premises and framework of the existing regimes). Nevertheless, development of an inter-linked series of protocols on land-based sources within UNEP Regional Seas Programme would be a starting point;
- b) Permanent independent scientific monitoring of the health of the world's oceans and review of information on the state of the marine environment should be encouraged and expanded to create a continuous scientific basis for legal regulation of land-based sources of marine pollution;
- c) The Precautionary Principle, now recognized as a guideline for the development and implementation of environmental policies, should be adequately defined in order to enable states to pursue strategies based on preventive rather than remedial measures;
- d) Placing reliance on clean technologies will ultimately prove to be a prudent economic, as well as environmentally sound investment;
- e) National governments should be encouraged to use economic instruments to support and improve existing regulatory regimes such as charges to discourage the use of heavily polluting raw material; subsidies to encourage pollution prevention; and financial enforcement incentives in the form of non-compliance fees or performance bonds;
- f) There can be no real progress on any of these issues until just and effective solutions are found to the problems of technology transfer and viable financing systems;