

attention should be given to the following issues (which were not listed in order of priority):

- combating climate change;
- combating the depletion of the ozone layer;
- management of shared freshwater resources;
- controlling pollution in regional seas and proper management of their coastal areas;
- halting desertification and deforestation;
- conserving biological diversity within a broad socio-economic context;
- minimizing hazardous wastes, through the development of low- and non-waste technologies and the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and potentially toxic chemicals.

Five particular tasks cited by the Council provide a useful guide for review in subsequent chapters:

1. TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND RECOMMEND POLICIES TO THIS END;
2. TO PROVIDE GENERAL POLICY GUIDANCE FOR THE DIRECTION AND COORDINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM;
1. TO REVIEW THE GLOBAL SITUATION AND IDENTIFY SIGNIFICANT EMERGING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY GOVERNMENTS;
4. TO PROMOTE CONTRIBUTION OF SCIENTIFIC AND OTHER PROFESSION COMMUNITIES TO ACQUISITION, ASSESSMENT AND EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION;
5. TO CONTINUE REVIEWING IMPACTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ADDITIONAL COSTS INCURRED BY THEM IN CARRYING OUT ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS.⁴⁰

UNEP's current Program Budget for 1990-1991 (approved at the 15th session of UNEP's Governing Council in May 1989) gives more detailed information on UNEP's activities in relation to six "major environmental problems" the council has decided to focus on to "assess their causes and to perfect means to deal with them." (Current information on these problems is available to the Preparatory Committee in reports prepared with the help of UNEP and other cooperating organizations):

- *(a) Climate change and atmospheric pollution: . . .
- *(b) Pollution and shortage of fresh water resources: . . .
- *(c) Deterioration of coastal areas and oceans: . . .
- *(d) Land degradation, including desertification:
- *(e) Biological impoverishment: . . .
- *(f) Hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals:⁴¹

Particularly pertinent for UNCED consideration of institutional aspects are the functions specified by UNEP's Governing Council for the current 1990-1991 program: