

Annex II

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND AND  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

1. We, the Ministers of the ESCAP region, representing more than half of the global population, met at Bangkok from 15 to 16 October 1990 at the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific;
2. Recalling resolution 267 (XLIV) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted at Jakarta in 1988 and the United Nations Development Programme Governing Council decision 90/20 adopted at its 38th meeting in 1990;
3. Recalling also the United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/228 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in 1992, and recognizing the importance accorded to regional inputs to that Conference;
4. Deeply concerned about the threat to environmentally sound and sustainable development due to environmental degradation and the depletion of natural resources in the ESCAP region and other adverse conditions, as highlighted in the report on the state of the environment for Asia and the Pacific 1990, such as forest destruction, desertification, watershed degradation, soil erosion, waterlogging and salinization, flooding, destruction of mangroves and corals, loss of biological diversity and pollution of air and water, as well as the ozone layer depletion and the potential rise in the sea level and other expected impacts of climate change associated with the emission of greenhouse gases;
5. Reiterating that poverty, human health, population pressure and environmental degradation are closely interrelated and that environmental protection in the developing countries of the region must, in this context, be viewed as an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it;
6. Affirming that the major cause of the continuing deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries, and that the responsibility for containing, reducing and eliminating environmental damage must be borne by the countries causing such damage and must be in relation