

challenging ideas for international co-operation, and legal and institutional measures. The 15th session of the UNEP Governing Council and the XLI session of the WMO Executive Council in 1989 requested their executive heads to begin preparations for negotiations on a framework convention on climate; these negotiations should be initiated as soon as possible after the interim report of the IPCC is adopted. This interim report will be reviewed at the Second World Climate Conference in November 1990. The 1989 Economic Summit agreed that a framework convention on climate change setting out general principles was urgently required and that specific protocols containing concrete commitments could be fitted into the framework as scientific evidence requires and permits. The Economic Summit also strongly advocated common efforts to limit emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The July 1988 declaration of the states, parties to the Warsaw Treaty, and the meeting of non-aligned countries in Belgrade in September 1989 also addressed the issue of climate change. The Tokyo Conference on Global Environment and Human Response Towards Sustainable Development was held in September 1989. The Langkawi Declaration on Environment issued by the Commonwealth Heads of Governments in October 1989 stated the need to take new action to address the serious deterioration in the environment, including climate change. Given this base it is now time for governments of all countries to commit themselves to the IPCC, to strengthen and to extend the process of addressing climate change.

(5) Measures to limit climate change will have other significant benefits such as reducing acidification, protecting the ozone layer, preserving biodiversity and other natural resources, preventing mean sea-level change and promoting sustainable development.

(6) The Conference recognizes the principle of the sovereign right of States to manage their natural resources independently. The Conference also reaffirms that global environmental problems have to be approached through international co-operation. Solving the external debt problem of developing countries, and establishing fair economic and commercial relationships between industrialized and developing countries would assist developing countries in creating appropriate conditions to protect the environment.

(7) Climate change is a common concern of mankind. All countries should now, according to their capabilities and the means at their disposal, initiate actions and develop and maintain effective and operational strategies to control, limit or reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. As a first step, they should take those actions which are beneficial in their own right. Industrialized countries, in view of their contribution to the increase of greenhouse gas concentrations, and in view of their capabilities, have specific responsibilities of different kinds: i) they should set an example by initiating domestic action, ii) they should support, financially and otherwise, the action by countries to which the protection of the atmosphere and adjustment to climate change would prove to be an excessive burden and iii) they should reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, also taking into account the need of the developing countries to