

of these countries. While there is no definitive proven link between these phenomena and climate change, there is nonetheless cause for concern that these trends may escalate. Consequently, there is a due need for response strategies that are based on sound scientific data.

57. A long-term research commitment, based on shared responsibilities of countries concerned, is needed to reduce the uncertainties involved. Meanwhile, precautionary measures have to be initiated to diminish present risks and effects, particularly on small islands, low-lying states and coastal areas of the world. The work of the IPCC in this field is to be taken into account.

Objectives

58. To develop techniques and methodologies for assessing the potential adverse effects of sea-level rise, as a consequence of climate change, on freshwater resources and the resulting social, economic and environmental impacts.

Activities

59. Countries, especially developing countries, according to their possibilities and with the assistance of the international community, could undertake the following:

- a. development of methods and approaches for the assessment and monitoring of the effects of climate change on coastal aquifers and freshwater resources
- b. assessment of the social, economic and environmental impacts of coastal dynamics and their implication for freshwater resources
- c. development of possible response measures, proactive and reactive, based on the above assessments
- d. continuous assessment of the impact of climate change on hydrological systems worldwide
- e. mitigation of saline intrusion into aquifers of small islands and coastal plains as a consequence of sea-level rise.

Means of Implementation

60. The implementation by developing countries of specific programmes and actions envisaged under Agenda 21 will be subject to the provision of adequate new and additional financial resources and of technology on concessional, preferential and non-commercial terms.

Proposals for means of implementation will include the following headings:

- Financing and cost evaluation
- Scientific and technological means
- Human resources development
- Building capacity of developing countries for preventive and corrective action in the field of environmental protection and promotion of development.]

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