

Eventually, we would hope that the UNEP programme document would present a complete picture of the environmental activities of the U.N. system. In this context, we note with approval the invitation of the Governing Council to the governing bodies of all organizations in the U.N. system to authorize their executive heads to collaborate fully with the Executive Director of UNEP in the development of specific objectives for environmental programmes in the U.N. system. Further, we would reiterate the Canadian suggestion made at Governing Council 5 that member states might aid in this process by ensuring the coordination in environmental matters of their delegations to the governing bodies of other U.N. organizations.

At the fifth Governing Council, Canada also made a number of suggestions to improve the quality of UNEP documentation. In spite of encouraging developments in the past year, my delegation believes that the basic UNEP programme document needs further refinement if valid planning and evaluation of environmental activities in the U.N. system are to take place. At the last session, an informal working group of the UNEP Governing Council attempted to aid the Secretariat in the development of an improved format for the programme document. Among other things, the working group suggested that appropriate documentation would not only give the Governing Council the means to identify priorities but it would also serve as a management tool for the Secretariat itself.

We believe that one of the necessary developments would be the provision of more information about the total resources allocated to the stated goals and objectives. In this regard, we believe it is important not only to know what resources UNEP is providing in a subject area from both the fund and the regular budget, but also to have information about the resources being provided by all U.N. bodies in that particular field. Such budgetary information would aid the Governing Council in its evaluation of programmes, and the gathering of the required information would contribute to the process of coordination. The format suggested would concentrate on identifying, for each functional task and subject area, a number of more specific programme areas, which would be accompanied by corresponding objectives, targets and work plans to achieve those objectives. The Secretariat would report on successes or failures on reaching goals rather than on individual projects. The adoption of this form of documentation would enhance both the capacity to plan and to make programme and project evaluation.

As requested by the Governing Council, the Executive Director has transmitted to governments for their information the report of the informal working group on documentation, together with his comments on the document and its implications. The Canadian delegation urges governments to study both the document and the Executive Director's comments so that the Governing Council might give this question further consideration at its sixth session.

Canada is particularly satisfied with the decision taken by the Governing Council to convene a small working group on environmental law. Such a group within the context of UNEP is particularly well placed to develop international law proposals in the environmental field.