

Special Adviser/Ambassador, Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, noted that the CSD already acted as a coordinating body and affirmed that the idea of a panel was premature. Dr. Holland agreed that there was no need for additional levels of management when existing levels were not used fully. However, the fact that the issue was so often raised, indicated that something was not working. Therefore a dialogue should be maintained and pressure put on the CSD to work on how existing organisations dealing with oceans could be better coordinated. Dr. Ellen Hey, Senior Lecturer, Erasmus University, Netherlands, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy, responding to concerns over the lack of an overarching body, suggested that a Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNCLOS could operate as an interim mechanism. Dr. Mee, noting that consensus was unlikely, suggested that ACOPS' Advisory Boards study this issue in the context of the successes and failures of regional and global programmes. A working group was created to prepare a draft proposal.

Application of National Security Data and Systems to Environmental Issues

43. Dr. Jetic explained that cooperation should go beyond the simple exchange of data. He noted that many military sectors were seeking new fields for activity and that environment could certainly be one of these fields. Dr. Lindquist affirmed that the fisheries issues should also be included in this sphere of cooperation in the high seas. A working group was created to prepare a draft proposal.

Assessment of International Waters at the Global Level

44. Dr. Pernetta recalled the presentation made in the morning on GIWA, and affirmed that there was a potential role for ACOPS within this framework. Mr. Karau welcomed the proposal but asserted that the Working Group of the Arctic Council should be considered as a partner. Dr. Gunilla Bjorklund, Researcher, Swedish Environment Institute (SEI), recalled that GIWA included freshwater systems and so provided a comprehensive assessment of this resource, and stressed that it was essential to keep this element. A working group was created to prepare a draft proposal.

Year 2001, the International Biodiversity Year (IBY)

45. Dr. Mee recalled that the original proposal for the IBY had been put forward by Speaker Newt Gingrich. Four projects were proposed that sought to address basic considerations such as the potential loss of existing information, use of modern observational tools, and use of modern media to heighten public awareness regarding natural ecosystems. Mr. Svensson, noting that biodiversity itself was a long-term process, recommended that a decade, not a year, should commemorate this field. Prof. Harald Rosenthal, Institute for Marine Science, University of Kiel, Germany, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Marine Natural Resource Management, urged that a clear definition of the term biodiversity be developed. Dr. Hey asserted that the human dimension should be incorporated, including indigenous or traditional knowledge in coastal areas. Mr. Holthe informed participants that the year 2001 already had another designation. A working group was created to prepare a draft proposal.

Community Projects Networking

46. Dr. Bewers informed participants that the proposal stemmed from ACOPS' experience in successfully networking communities in the Baltic, as well as its continued involvement in the Arctic and now, in sub-Saharan Africa. The proposal reflected the understanding that networking was only efficient if fully cognisant of regional issues and concerns at regional level. Mr. Normunds Riekstins, Director of