

consultations to avoid potential conflicts or overlaps. There also is a considerable amount of standard-setting ongoing that is not based on specific environmental agreements and instruments but on the constitutional functions of existing international bodies. An overview of current and planned drafting work in this field could assist in harmonizing global and regional codification programmes.

III. GUIDANCE FOR FURTHER LEGAL WORK

7. The Working Group is expected to examine possible areas for the further development of international environmental law, in the light of the need to integrate environment and development, especially taking into account the needs and concerns of developing countries. Areas to be examined in this context are, in particular:

- (a) priorities for future law-making at the global, regional and national level;
- (b) measures to promote and support the effective participation of developing countries in existing and future international agreements or instruments;
- (c) international compliance control, regular scientific assessment and timely adjustment of agreements or instruments;
- (d) coordination and streamlining of (global and regional) institutions and procedures for the administration of international agreements and instruments;
- (e) resolution and prevention of conflicts, including potential conflicts between environmental and economic/trade agreements or instruments.

NOTE: Relevant materials include, in particular, the draft instruments being prepared by the United Nations International Law Commission, especially in connection with its work on state responsibility; on a draft code of crimes against the peace and security of mankind; on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses; and on international liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law (see the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-second session, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth session, Supplement No. 10, A/45/10, 1990; and the comments by Governments on recent work by the International Law Commission in these areas, summarized in document A/CN.4/L.456, 1991).

By resolution 44/23, the General Assembly declared the period 1990-1999 as the United Nations Decade of International Law, the main purposes of which include, inter alia, "to promote acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law" and "to encourage the progressive development of international law and codification". In this context, protection of the global environment was addressed in comments from States and organizations, summarized in the 1990 report of the Secretary General (United Nations Decade of International Law, A/45/430 and Addenda 1-3), including a project proposed by China on "developing countries and international legislation on environment" (A/45/430/Add.2), and a document submitted by Italy on the