

voting in favour of the resolution. At the 8th Consultative Meeting (1984) it was agreed to establish a panel of independent experts to study the accumulated scientific and technical information and subsequently to convene a meeting of an expanded panel open to experts from all contracting parties, which would consider the findings of the original panel and prepare a final report for the 9th Consultative Meeting.

Discussion concerning the issue of disposal into the sea-bed of high-level radioactive wastes has included the questions of whether such disposal is covered by the LDC and, if so, whether the Convention permits temporary retrievable emplacement of such wastes for research purposes.

Marine Pollution

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Working Group on Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources completed its work at its 3rd session held in Montreal, April 11 to 19, 1985. Under Canadian chairmanship, the Working Group recommended a final document for adoption by the UNEP Governing Council, entitled "Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment against Pollution from Land-Based Sources". The Guidelines include three technical annexes on control strategies, classification of substances and monitoring and data management and are addressed to governments with a view to assisting in the process of developing appropriate bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements as well as national legislation for the protection of the marine environment against pollution from land-based sources. The Guidelines which are only recommendatory in nature are presented as a checklist of basic provisions, rather than a model agreement, from which governments may select, adapt or elaborate as appropriate, to meet the needs of specific regions. The basic obligation set out in the guidelines is as follows:

"States have the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment. In exercising their sovereign right to exploit their natural resources, all States have the duty to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment".

Chemicals

In May 1982, the Governing Council of UNEP authorized the Executive Director to convene a meeting of government experts to consider guidelines or principles on the exchange of information relating to trade in and use and handling of potentially harmful chemicals, in particular pesticides.