

- (22) How do these arrangements and mechanisms ensure the effective participation of (a) national authorities, especially from developing countries; and (b) non-governmental participants, including the industries concerned and the scientific community?
- (23) Which mechanisms are available to ensure periodic review and timely adjustment of international agreements and instruments, and to what extent have they been used?

NOTE: The process by which international law-making treaties are formulated and brought into force was extensively examined by the General Assembly in the United Nations Review of the Multilateral Treaty-Making Process (ST/LEG/SER.B/21, 1981). Information on the actual operation of treaty regimes will have to be compiled from a cross-section of reports to the governing bodies concerned, together with available external analyses. Technical assistance to Governments for the necessary implementing measures and institutions has been provided ad hoc by UNEP and by several specialized agencies within their areas of competence, and could play an important role in promoting wider participation. In view of the need for rapid and frequent adjustment of environmental agreements and instruments to changing circumstances and to scientific and technological progress, flexible amendment procedures have proved essential. In addition, several existing agreements provide for periodic review conferences to assess implementation and policy adaptation.

E. Codification programming

- (24) Which new drafts or draft revisions of existing agreements and instruments in the environmental field are currently under preparation?
- (25) To what extent is drafting coordinated with related work regarding other agreements and instruments?
- (26) Which are the remaining gaps that need to be covered by legal provisions?
- (27) To what extent are mechanisms other than formal agreements or instruments contributing to the development of international law in the field of the environment?

NOTE: An "in-depth review" of international environmental law, summarizing the activities of competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, was carried out by UNEP, (UNEP Report No. 2, 1981, in English only), as part of preparations for the long-term "Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law" adopted in 1982 by Governing Council decision 10/21 (endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/217); an update is planned for 1991. Summaries of "legislative" activities within the United Nations system are published in the United Nations Juridical Yearbook (up to 1984, in English, French and Spanish). Environmental law activities are included in the "system-wide medium-term environment programme" (SWMTEP 1990-1995, UNEP/GCSS.I/7/Add.1), and regular inter-agency consultations are held in sectors such as water resources and ocean affairs. Furthermore, some of the regional bodies in charge of administering environmental conventions have initiated direct