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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
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Agenda item 2 (c) of plenary

PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE BASIS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
44/228 AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OTHER RELEVANT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTIONS: CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES

Preambular paragraphs for Agenda 21

Proposal submitted by the Chairman

1. Humanity stands at a defining moment in its history. We are confronted with a perpetuation of disparities between and within nations, a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy, and the continuing deterioration of the ecosystems on which we depend for our well-being. However, integration of environment and development concerns, and greater attention to them will lead to the fulfilment of basic needs, improved living standards for all, better protected and managed ecosystems and a safer, more prosperous future. No nation can achieve this on its own; but together we can - in a global partnership for sustainable development.
2. This global partnership must build on the premises of General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989, which was adopted when the nations of the world called for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and on the acceptance of the need to take a balanced and integrated approach to environment and development questions.
3. Agenda 21 addresses the pressing problems of today and also aims at preparing the world for the challenges of the next century. It reflects a global consensus and [political commitment at the highest level] on development and environment cooperation. Its successful implementation is