



# World Bank

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JOINT STATEMENT OF THE HEADS OF UNEP, UNDP AND THE WORLD BANK  
ON COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR PROGRAMS  
TO PROTECT THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

The following statement was signed on September 17, 1990 in New York by Mostafa Tolba of the United Nations Environment Programme, William H. Draper III of the United Nations Development Programme, and Barber B. Conable of The World Bank.

There is growing awareness among industrial and developing countries that the protection of the global environment is of critical importance to all countries. For this reason a number of developing countries have indicated that they are eager to participate in global initiatives for environmental protection to be funded on a concessional basis from new and additional funds and have sought cooperation of developed countries and international organizations in this respect. Our agencies, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the World Bank, are willing to provide this assistance.

The complementary nature of the programs of our agencies provides a strong basis for effective collaboration in this area. UNEP has proven itself an effective architect of global conventions and has played a key role assisting developing countries to define their technical, financial and institutional needs for responding to such conventions. UNDP, through its network of 112 field offices, has long and successful experience in funding pre-investment studies, in helping developing countries to co-ordinate technical assistance, and to strengthen their technical, institutional and environmental management capacity. The World Bank group is the largest source of funding for development projects and has substantially expanded its assistance to national environmental programs in recent years. All three agencies also have excellent links with bilateral agencies, other multilateral development institutions and non-governmental organizations. Given the scale of the problem we will need and will welcome the assistance of these public and private organizations in helping developing countries to implement programs for the global environment.

We propose to work together to help developing countries design and carry out programs in four areas of priority, which are additional to expanding regular activities in support of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. First, there is the protection of the ozone layer. Many developing countries have signed the Montreal Protocol and agreed to phase out the production and use of ozone-depleting substances. The recent agreement in

London to provide funding to support them in this process is an important step and our agencies will work with the Executive Committee of the parties to the Protocol, to help achieve its objectives. Second, there is climate change and global warming and the need for reduction of carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions, as well as increased efficiency in the use of energy. An important element here is the preparatory work being undertaken by UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the preparations for negotiating a global framework convention on the subject. This effort will be key to future programs to ensure consistent approaches to the reduction of atmospheric pollution and the sustainability of development. Third, there is the protection of biodiversity. Developing countries have a special concern as the bulk of the world's biodiversity resources is located in the developing world. Our agencies already have active programs in this area and are willing to expand them. The International Treaty for the Protection of Biodiversity being negotiated under the auspices of UNEP is one such effort. Fourth, there is the clean-up and protection against degradation of international waters. UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank are already collaborating on a regional program for the clean-up of the Mediterranean. This will provide a model for further action to address this important problem.

The actions which we can take to assist developing countries in this area are constrained by the resources available for this purpose. Significant budget and program funds have been allocated to start addressing global environmental objectives, but further action must not come at the expense of the regular development and national environmental activities undertaken by our respective agencies. We therefore urge the industrial countries who have not already indicated their willingness to provide financial support to join those who have done so and to fund the proposed Global Environment Facility to enable our respective agencies to expand the efforts to address the concerns cited. New funds for dealing with global environmental problems are essential. A speedy agreement on the Global Environment Facility will advance our agencies' efforts to work with a broad range of developing countries and to assist them in making sure that their development programs are undertaken in a manner which protects the global environment. Experience gained via the Facility can help advance the agenda that governments will be addressing at the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in June 1992.

Once such funding is agreed, then we will prepare a joint program of the work to be undertaken with developing countries to address global environmental issues. The work program will be submitted to donors and developing countries for review and will form the basis for the actions to be pursued by each agency, according to its own procedures and governance, in this field. By ensuring that each agency's efforts are coordinated with its partners, we are confident that funds will be used in a cost-effective manner. The sustainability of the global environment and of economic development is a matter of fundamental importance to rich and poor nations alike and as such is consistent with the objectives of the international agencies we lead.

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