



**SACEP**

**S A C E P**

*Report of the  
Fourth Governing Council Meeting of the*

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

*25 & 26 April 1988*

*Kabul, Afghanistan*

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
(S A C E P)  
REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE  
GOVERNING COUNCIL - GC 4**

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**Report of the Fourth Meeting of  
the Governing Council of the South  
Asia Co-operative Environment  
Programme (SACEP), 25th & 26th  
April 1988, Kabul, Afghanistan.**

## **SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

### **FOURTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC 4)**

**25th - 26th April, 1988**

**KABUL, AFGHANISTAN.**

#### **REPORT**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Fourth Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme was held in Kabul, Afghanistan, on the 25th and 26th April 1988.

#### **2. ATTENDANCE**

The Governing Council (GC 4) was attended by Representatives from the following Member Countries viz: Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Iran and Sri Lanka.

Representatives from the following United Nations Agencies and International Organisations also participated. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organisation (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). List of Participants is in Annex 1.

#### **3. INAUGURATION**

The Fourth Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme was inaugurated by The Honourable Sultan Ali Keshtmand, Prime Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan. In his inaugural address he pointed out that there is a close inter-relationship between environmental protection and world peace which must not be overlooked. He also noted that there is a growing recognition that environmental degradation can have economic and social repercussions leading to political instability and even threatening peace and that throughout history nations and peoples have been drawn into conflicts over natural resources such as land, minerals, forests and water.

A copy of his address is at Annex II.

Mr Farid Zarif, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan in his welcome address said that the participation of the delegations at a very high level in this meeting, is a manifestation of the determination of Member Countries of SACEP to solve the existing environmental problems of our region in a co-operative spirit and make the future development programmes environmentally viable.

A copy of his address is at Annex III.

His Excellency Shri I P Khosla, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Afghanistan, while reading the message from Shri Z R Ansari, Minister for Environment and Forests, Government of India and Chairman GC 3, quoted the Prime Minister of India Shri Rajiv Gandhi as follows "As experience grows and lacunae in knowledge are filled, answers will slowly be found to the complex question of development and environment. The search for the right answers must go relentlessly. It is a world wide endeavour to which India pledges unstinting support." The message also appealed to all members of SACEP to make determined efforts regarding the enhancement of their financial contributions to SACEP and strengthening the Organisation.

A copy of his address is at Annex IV.

In his address Mr M J Kazem, Director, SACEP, stated that this Governing Council Meeting has a vital role to play to revive the pledges of the member countries to consider seriously the aspects of collective co-operation in the field of environment and to take decisions which ensure that SACEP could continue to function effectively. Firm commitments will have to be made by the member states to ensure the financial stability of SACEP.

A copy of his address is found in Annex V.

#### **4. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

In accordance with the provisions of Article 4 (C), of the Articles of Association of SACEP, Honourable Fatch Mohamad Tarin, Minister of Light and Foodstuff Industries, Government of the Republic of Afghanistan was elected Chairman of the Fourth Governing Council of SACEP. Hon D B Wijetunge, Minister of Agricultural Development and Research and Minister of Food of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and His Excellency Mr Dago Tshering Deputy Minister of Home Affairs of the Royal Government of Bhutan, were elected as Vice Chairmen of the Meeting. Shri R V Wajri, First Secretary, Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka, was elected Rapporteur.

#### **5. AGENDA**

The Governing Council (GC 4) discussed and adopted the Agenda of the Meeting.

A copy of the Adopted Agenda is at Annex VI.

#### **6. STATEMENTS OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS**

The Heads of Delegations from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Iran and Sri Lanka addressed the Governing Council. All the statements reflected the steps taken in respect of areas of critical environmental concern by the respective member countries and called for greater regional and global co-operation in combating these problems.

The respective Country Statements are found in Annexes VII to XI.

#### **7. OTHER STATEMENTS**

Statements made by the Representatives of the UN System Organisations attending this meeting are found in Annexes XII to XVI.

#### **8. INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

##### **A. SACEP Secretariat**

The working paper on SACEP Secretariat was presented by the Director of SACEP. The paper reaffirmed that SACEP would be more effective if the Secretariat is adequately equipped. The major constraint so far has been the lack of adequate financial resources.

The paper also requested the Governing Council to consider and ratify a Draft Set of Rules and Regulations for the administration of the SACEP Secretariat.

The Governing Council deliberated on the subject of financial resources and decided to consider this under Agenda item 8.

The Governing Council also approved the Draft Set of Rules and Regulations for the SACEP Secretariat subject to certain amendments.



The approved Set of Rules and Regulations is found in Annex XVII.

##### **B. Vienna Liaison Office**

Under this Agenda item the Report of the Special Committee on the SACEP Vienna Liaison Office was presented to the Governing Council. The Governing Council approved the recommendation of the committee not to establish a Vienna Liaison Office since it would amount to the setting up of a parallel institution to SACEP. The Governing Council also endorsed the committee's recommendations that any assistance from the EEC or the Government of Austria should be credited to the SACEP Account direct. The SACEP Secretariat with the approval of the Consultative Committee may communicate directly with any potential donor and any assistance should be credited to the SACEP Account. Expenditure of all funds will be with the specific approval of the Consultative Committee/Governing Council.

### **C. Subject Area Focal Points**

Under this Agenda item the need for revitalisation of Subject Area Focal Points was emphasised. It was agreed that all Focal Points should take the adopted Modalities of Focal Points as approved by GC 2 as its guideline and that the SACEP Secretariat would also assist in the formulation of projects and programmes in the respective Subject Areas.

The Governing Council was informed by the SACEP Secretariat that the Asia and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (formerly known as RCTT) had informed that they could not continue to be SACEP's Focal Point for the Subject Matter Area "Technology for Development of Renewable and Reusable Resources" due to a reorientation of their activities. The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Consultative Committee of SACEP in the designation of United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) as the new Focal Point for this Subject Matter Area, subject to the concurrence of the Government of Pakistan.

## **9. PROGRAMME MATTERS**

### **A. Review of Priority Programmes and Projects undertaken by SACEP (Director's Report)**

The Director SACEP presented to the Governing Council a comprehensive report on all the programme activities of SACEP.

On the South Asian Seas Programme, the Governing Council recommended that the concerned member states of SACEP who are a party to this programme should make every endeavour to seek the early finalisation of the Action Plan so that the SACEP Secretariat could execute this programme.

The Governing Council of SACEP requested UNESCO through SACEP Secretariat to prepare an inter country environmental education project for South Asia and to submit to UNDP or any other international organisation for funding and for SACEP to execute this project in association with UNESCO.

The Governing Council also approved the undernoted Terms of Reference, prepared by the Secretariat, for a panel of experts from within South Asia for the review of SACEP's projects and programmes, subject to the availability of funds.

#### **i. To review initially:**

- a) The activities initiated and undertaken by the Subject Area Focal Points of SACEP;
- b) The activities undertaken under the approved projects and programmes of SACEP.
- ii. To visit the member states of SACEP to ascertain the activities undertaken in the field of environment by each government and to identify new areas of immediate environmental concern.
- iii. To update all approved projects and bring into focus the current developments in the relevant Subject Areas.
- iv. To identify and formulate projects in the newly emerging Subject Areas, which are of immediate environmental concern to this region.
- v. Taking into consideration the above findings and the recommendations of the member countries, to draw up a Plan of Action for a period of 5 years.

### **B. Review of Activities of Subject Area Focal Points - Report by Member Countries**

The Secretariat circulated the reports submitted by the Governments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. On the basis of the observations made, the Governing Council recommended that all Focal Points should:

- i. disseminate to the member countries whatever specialised work done by them in the relevant Subject Area,

- ii. identify projects and programmes and go through the procedures laid down in the Modalities of Focal Points, and
- iii. initiate Projects through the SACEP Secretariat.

### C. Review on Co-operation with International Organisations

Under this Agenda item the Governing Council conveyed its appreciation to all International Organisations for the support they have given SACEP and requested them for their continued support in the future activities of the SACEP Secretariat.

The Governing Council authorised the Director of SACEP to write to the Secretary General of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) regarding the role SACEP can play as a specialised agency on environmental matters in co-operation with SAARC so as to avoid duplication of work.

The Governing Council also approved the Proposal for entering into a relationship agreement with UNIDO subject to the concurrence of the Government of Pakistan.

## 10. FINANCIAL MATTERS

### A. Report of the Consultative Committee of SACEP on the Formula to be Adopted for the Sharing of the Annual Expenditure of the SACEP Secretariat

After the consideration of the Report of the Consultative Committee on this matter, the Governing Council accepted the formula as contained in Annexure 2 of the working document SACEP/GC4/WP7 which is quoted below:

COUNTRY	PERCENTAGE	CONTRIBUTION	ROUNDED OFF TO
1	2	3	5
		US \$	US \$
Afghanistan	4.17	5,880	5,900
Bangladesh	10.42	14,692	14,700
Bhutan	2.08	2,933	2,900
India	25.00	35,250	35,250
Iran	25.00	35,250	35,250
Maldives	6.25	8,812	8,800
Nepal	4.17	5,880	5,900
Pakistan	16.66	23,491	23,500
Sri Lanka	6.25	8,812	8,800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1,41,000</b>	<b>1,41,000</b>

The Governing Council welcomed the decision of the Governments of India, Iran and Sri Lanka to give their full share of their contribution as per agreed scale.

In view of their least developed status, the Government's of Afghanistan and Bhutan agreed to pay 50% of the agreed scale.

The Governing Council recommended that the Governments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal should pay at least 50% of the agreed scale and that other countries should pay their full share.

### B. Report of the Consultative Committee of SACEP on the Establishment of a Trust Fund

The Governing Council approved in principle the establishment of a fund for financing projects and programmes of SACEP on the basis of voluntary contributions of member countries and other donors. The SACEP Secretariat should on the basis of approved projects and programmes seek additional contributions from other sources.



### **C. Approval of the Latest Annual Audited Reports of the Accounts of SACEP**

The annual audited report of the accounts of SACEP for the calendar year 1987 was approved by the Governing Council.

### **D. Approval of Budget for the Secretariat - 1988**

The budget for the Secretariat for the year 1988 as reflected in Annex 3 of working document SACEP/GC4/WP8B was approved by the Governing Council.

Whilst accepting the budget, the Governing Council recommended that a new format be prepared for the presentation of the budget in order that it would reflect only the activities of SACEP Programmes and not of other agencies or Governments. The details of the format may be worked out and approved by the Consultative Committee of SACEP. The budget should be submitted in future to the Governing Council in the format to be approved by the Consultative Committee.

## **11. APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR**

In accordance with the provisions as laid down in the Articles of Association of SACEP, the Governing Council approved the appointment of Mr Shamsul Hoque nominated by the Government of Bangladesh as the new Director of SACEP. He is expected to assume duties in August 1988.

The Governing Council taking into account the financial position of SACEP, placed the monthly salary of the new Director at US \$ 2000.

The Governing Council placed on record their deep appreciation to the outgoing Director Mr M J Kazem; for the able manner in which he executed his duties under very difficult financial constraints.

The outgoing Director thanked the Governing Council, the Consultative Committee and the Government of Sri Lanka for all the assistance rendered during his tenure of office. He particularly thanked UNEP and the staff of the SACEP Secretariat for making his task that much lighter.

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

According to the procedures adopted in scheduling Governing Council Meetings, the next meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP should take place in Bhutan. But the representative of Bhutan expressed his Government's inability to host the next Meeting. The Governing Council therefore authorised the Consultative Committee to explore other possibilities and to keep the members informed accordingly.

## **13. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

The Meeting considered and adopted this report on the 26th of April 1988.

## **14. CONCLUDING SESSION**

Honourable D B Wijetunga Minister for Agricultural Development and Research and Minister for Food, Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka thanked the Government of Afghanistan for the warm hospitality extended to all the participants and for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference. He also commended the SACEP Secretariat for their professional approach in the conducting of this meeting.

The Chairman GC 4 Honourable F M Tarin Minister of Light and Foodstuff Industries, Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, in conclusion thanked all the participants for their presence on this important occasion and for all the assistance given to him in fulfilling his obligation as Chairman. He also thanked the SACEP Secretariat and said that he was confident that the important decisions arrived at this meeting, signified the spirit and strength of regional co-operation which will no doubt ensure that SACEP will in the future, continue to play a dominant role in mitigating the environmental problems of the region.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

## SACEP MEMBERS

## AFGHANISTAN

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Hon Fatch Mohamad Tarin     | - Minister of Light and Foodstuff Industries, Kabul.  |
| Mr Farid Zarif              | - Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kabul.  |
| Dr Abdullah Naqshbandi      | - Deputy Minister (Economics), Ministry of Agriculture, Kabul.  |
| Mr Abdul Ghafour Jawshan    | - Director of UN Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kabul.  |
| Dr Abdul Rashid Rauof       | - President, Agriculture Department, State Planning Committee, Kabul.   |
| Mr Mirza Ali Nazim          | - General President, Forestry and Range Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Kabul.   |
| Engineer Lutful Haque Hotak | - President, Department of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Ministry of Power and Energy, Kabul.                          |
| Dr Abdul Sabour             | - President, Department of Sanitary and Epidemiology, Ministry of Public Health, Kabul.                                       |
| Mr Sultan Mohammad Joyan    | - President, Science Centre, Ministry of Education, Kabul.  |
| Dr Khairulah Dawlaty        | - Professor, Faculty of Agriculture, Kabul University.  |
| Mr Azizuddin Orya           | - Director General, Planning Section, Department of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Ministry of Power and Energy, Kabul. |

## BHUTAN

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| H.E. Mr Dago Tshering | - Deputy Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Thimpu. |
| Mr Leki Dorji         | - Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thimpu.     |

## INDIA

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| H.E. Shri I. P. Khosla | - Ambassador for India in Afghanistan.                             |
| Shri K. M. Sarma       | - Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi. |
| Shri R. V. Warjri      | - First Secretary, Indian High Commission, Sri Lanka.              |

## IRAN

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Mr Ahmad Khudadadi | - Charge d' Affaires, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Afghanistan. |
| Mr Ali Omidmehr    | - First Secretary, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Afghanistan.    |

## **SRI LANKA**

Hon. D. B. Wijetunge

- Minister of Agricultural Development and Research and Minister of Food, Sri Lanka.

Mr K. H. J. Wijayadasa

- Secretary to the Hon. Prime Minister, and Chairman, Central Environmental Authority, Sri Lanka.

## **OTHERS**

### **UNEP**

Dr R. V. Deshpande

- Environmental Affairs Officer, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and Pacific, Bangkok.

### **UNDP**

Mr Somendu Bannerjee

- Resident Representative UNDP, Kabul.

Mr J. Czarnarski

- Deputy Resident Representative UNDP, Kabul.

Ms S. Sultana

- Assistant Resident Representative UNDP, Kabul.

Mr Ismail Qadeer

- Programme Assistant, UNDP, Kabul.

### **ESCAP**

Mr U. Wai Lin

- Programme Officer, Environmental Co-ordinating Unit, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, Bangkok.

### **WHO**

Dr Mahboub Rahman

- WHO Representative in Kabul.

Engineer I. Korabljev

- WHO Sanitary Engineer, Kabul.

### **FAO**

Dr H. C. Dewan

- FAO Officer in Charge in Afghanistan.

Mr Jan C. Cappon

- FAO Programme Officer, Afghanistan.

### **WFP**

Mr Somendu Bannerjee

- WFP Representative in Afghanistan.

### **SACEP**

Mr M. J. Kazem

- Director.

Mr P. N. D. Abeyegunawardene

- Consultant.

Ms M. Pereira

- Administrative Assistant.

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF HON. SULTAN ALI KESHTMAND,  
PRIME MINISTER,  
REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN**

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government and the people of Afghanistan I extend to you a warm welcome to our country. I wish you a pleasant and comfortable stay in our country.

The presence of the Distinguished Delegations from the Member Countries of SACEP at this meeting, signifies their profound concern over the state of the environment in the World and in particular in our region.

As is evident many hazards are threatening the world environment. The present environmental trends in the world, should it continue will radically alter the ecosystem in our planet and thereby threaten the lives of several species on it, including the human species. Each year, over six million hectares of productive dryland on earth, turn into worthless desert. More than eleven million hectares of forests are destroyed yearly, and this, over three decades, would equal an area about the size of India. In developed industrial countries, acid precipitation kills forests and may have acidified vast tracts of soil beyond reasonable hope for repair. The burning fossil fuel releases into the atmosphere, carbon dioxide which is causing gradual global warming. According to experts, this greenhouse effect, may by early next century have increased the average global temperatures significantly to shift agricultural production areas, raise sea levels to flood coastal cities, and thereby disrupt national economies. Other industrial gases threaten to deplete the planet's protective ozone shield to such an extent that the number of human and animal cancers would rise sharply, and the oceans food chain would be disrupted. Industry and agriculture indirectly introduce toxic substances into the human food chain and into under ground water tables which are beyond the reach of cleansing.

I do not wish to draw pessimistic and bleak pictures of environmental pollution. On the one hand, unfortunately the situation gives rise to serious concern. But on the other the efforts of several countries of the world in particular those who seriously think of the future and destiny of human beings and have a planned economy with due regard to the interest of the people and its environment, give reason for hope. Already in some industrially advanced countries particularly the Socialist countries, great strides are made and enormous expenditure are committed for prevention of environmental pollution.

In our region, that is South Asia, the environment has been degraded to an alarming state. Our countries are more interdependent perhaps much more when it is the question of environment. We all belong to a developing world and share many acute environmental problems. Most of our environmental problems stem from rapid population increase and hard pressed economies. Widespread poverty has become both rural and urban affliction for South Asian Countries, and their developmental efforts are not only subject to the vagaries of nature, but are also threatened by the continued degradation and depletion of resources. Major environmental problems of our region which range from deforestation, desertification, soil erosion, pollution of water and air, lack of proper sanitation and proper waste disposal systems, require urgent attention.

In our own country Afghanistan, the exhaustion and degradation of terrestrial ecosystems is a cause for serious concern.

The problem of desertification and loss of vegetative cover is extremely serious. Intensified irrigation and the lack of adequate drainage facilities are causing water logging and salinisation in some areas, while in some other parts the lack of rainfall is causing severe drought and water shortages. Lack of public awareness about the importance of environment, particularly in rural areas, is also a major cause of the environment degradation. Besides these, nine years imposed war on our country has caused environmental degradation and deforestation.

A tragic example of poverty-environmental relation, which is common in the region, is the wide spread dependence of the poor on firewood which is needed for cooking and heating. This in turn has resulted in deforestation. Despite the constraints of the undeclared war, the Government has taken up extensive programmes for the rehabilitation of forests and development of popular and fast growing species. The programme includes development of new and renewable energy like solar, wind, biogas, microhydel etc. Technical and financial assistance as well as transfer of requisite technology from SACEP and other international organisations has already been sought.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has been acutely conscious of the need for environmental protection. The new Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan which was adopted last November, reiterates the significance of environmental protection. Article 32 of the Constitution stipulates that "The State shall adopt and implement necessary measures for the protection of nature, natural wealth and reasonable utilisation of natural resources, improvement of environment, prevention of pollution of water and air and conservation and survival of animals and plants."

It should be pointed out that there is a close inter-relationship between environmental protection and world peace which must not be overlooked. There is a growing recognition that environmental degradation can have economic and social repercussions, leading to political instability and even threatening peace. Throughout history, nations and peoples have been drawn into conflicts over natural resources: land, minerals, forests and water.

Wars, armed conflicts and arms race, pose grave danger to the environment and create serious obstacles to sustained development. To turn world process towards disarmament means not only giving mankind peace and security, but also finding considerable additional resources for construction and development. It is a fact that enormous resources which are being squandered on the unproductive arms race could very usefully be allocated to developmental activities, environmental improvement measures and regional and international co-operation.

The current state of environment in the world, and in every country of our region, points to the need for an all out co-operative and comprehensive effort to protect and preserve the environment. It has to be mentioned that there can be no rational and equitable economic development without dealing with environmental issues because they are inter-related. Environmental degradation invariably results in increased economic inequality in which the poor suffer the most.

It is quite obvious that most environmental problems have an international character and such features have become ever so significant in recent years. Eco-systems do not respect national boundaries. Water pollution moves through shared rivers, lakes and seas. The atmosphere carries air pollution over vast distances. Major accidents particularly those of chemical and nuclear plants or warehouses containing toxic materials, can have widespread regional effect. That is why regional co-operation is so vital in dealing with environmental problems. Our countries in this region could achieve a great deal by collectively developing the policy concepts, programmes and institutions that are needed to tackle environmental questions. In view of such a necessity, it can be stated that the creation of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme in 1981 was a step taken in the right direction by the Governments of the countries of South Asia to work jointly to meet the challenges of environmental management for the development of our region.

The performance of SACEP during its short period of existence, despite various constraints, has been quite satisfactory and the efforts initiated by this programme in identifying the regional problems and initiating projects such as the Regional Seas Programme, Environmental Education, Environmental Legislation etc., for tackling those problems are gratifying. Declaration of 1988 as the Year of Trees for Asia and the designation of the 8th March as the Day of Trees for South Asia, which we all observed, have had far reaching effects in the creation of awareness among the people of our region in the importance of trees and forests. The importance of SACEP is not only in its being the first step towards co-operative actions in the region, but also in the spirit of self-reliance shown by Member countries in ensuring such co-operation.

This Fourth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP provides an ideal forum for evaluation and assessment of the achievements and obstacles facing this organisation, and will have to take important decisions towards revitalisation and strengthening of SACEP activities. SACEP has to be supported and promoted to serve as an efficient and effective mechanism, and to enable it to play a meaningful regional role to assist its member Governments in protection and management of environment.

Before concluding I would like to mention that the Fourth Governing Council Meeting is coinciding with the Tenth Anniversary of April Revolution. Our people are celebrating this historical event in such a condition that extremist groups still continue war, fratricide and bloodshed. We believe that the continuation of war is meaningless. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has adopted and implemented very important socio-economic development plans for which peace is also required. Based on this belief the policy of national reconciliation was proclaimed on 15th January, 1987, which is unexampled in the world history. The main principles of multi-party system have been enshrined in a new Constitution. We have announced formation of a coalition government on broad bases.

Today the question of putting an end to regional disputes and conflicts is the urgent task facing world community. The idea that political solution of conflicts and the policy of national reconciliation should play a determining role in solving regional conflicts, is gaining support and strength in the international arena.

It is undeniable that it was the policy of national reconciliation that gave a new impetus to the Geneva talks and finally after almost six years we succeeded to finalise the documents and sign them. The Geneva agreements, if faithfully respected and implemented would stop all forms of foreign interference from abroad in the internal affairs of our country, provide conditions for the return of the limited Soviet military contingents and Afghan emigrants to their country, and serve the cause of stability and peace in the region.

The Geneva success attested to the world public that we can and should tackle disputes and conflicts through peaceful means on the basis of bold initiative, goodwill, realism and a sense of responsibility to the cause of universal peace and security.

We believe that peace is not merely the absence of war, it is also promotion of a state of harmonious relations among States. The Republic of Afghanistan has tried from the very beginning of the triumph of April Revolution for establishment and promotion of friendly relations with all countries of the world especially with neighbouring countries.

Finally, I wish this Fourth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP every success and hope that our co-operative efforts would result in the conservation and protection of our region's fragile environment.

Thank You.

**ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY  
MR FARID ZARIF,  
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER,  
REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN**

Esteemed S. A. Keshtmand, Prime Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, Mr Chairman of the Third Governing Council, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Dear Guests and colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this Inaugural Session of the Fourth Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme here in Kabul. We consider it a great privilege that SACEP has chosen Afghanistan as the venue for this important meeting. We in Afghanistan attach significant importance to the activities of SACEP which co-ordinates the efforts of member countries to overcome their environmental problems. The participation of delegations at a very high level in this meeting is a manifestation of the determination of member countries of SACEP to solve the existing environmental problems of our region in a co-operative spirit and make the future development programmes environmentally viable.

We are confident that this Fourth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP will be another milestone in our history of co-operation in South Asia to meet environmental challenges. It is my earnest hope that the distinguished delegates will find themselves here in a congenial atmosphere for fruitful and thorough deliberations which will certainly lead to far reaching results.

Your Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates, I would like once again to extend a very warm welcome to all of you and I hope you will find your stay in this historic city of Kabul, pleasant and enjoyable.

May I express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Esteemed S. A. Keshtmand, Prime Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, for having kindly agreed to be the Chief Guest of this meeting.

I request the Esteemed Prime Minister to kindly inaugurate this meeting.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT FROM CHAIRMAN GC 3,  
SHRI Z. R. ANSARI,  
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS,  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.**

**DELIVERED BY,  
H.E. I. P. KHOSLA,  
AMBASSADOR FOR INDIA,  
IN AFGHANISTAN.**

Mr Chairman and Distinguished Guests,

I have great pleasure in participating in this meeting of the Fourth Governing Council of the SACEP. We had met more than a year ago in New Delhi and had taken some important decisions after extensive discussions. It is now time to review the action taken on these decisions and remove the impediments in the path of our progress.

We, of the South Asia, have come together on this co-operative programme as we have similar environmental problems. We are all determined to proceed on the path of economic development fast in order to remove the stigma of poverty attached to millions of our citizens. We have also realised more than a decade ago, that this path will be a dead end unless the environment and natural resources which are the very foundation for development are protected effectively.

This conclusion has been amply confirmed by the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development submitted in 1987. The report has identified the common concerns of population, food supply, health, conservation of species and ecosystems, energy, industry and urban agglomerations. It has made several suggestions to help the mankind to extricate itself from the morass created by its shortsighted attitude towards grave problems of environment. It has also stressed the responsibilities of the international financing institutions in protecting the environment.

We are all aware of the enthusiastic response given to this report and its broad endorsement by the United Nations. We, in SACEP, feel heartened that our co-operative efforts have received additional support from this report. We have always been urging that the global economic system dominated by interests which have already used much of the planet's ecological capital should be changed radically if the poverty of the millions is to be alleviated. This poverty is at the root of the over exploitation of natural resources of our countries. Many countries draw heavily on non-renewable resources just to survive in the present inequitable system. These and other factors need to be corrected substantially by the international community.

We, on our part, must resist the temptation of emphasising development and ignoring environment. India, during the last two decades, has attempted to protect the environment through several steps such as survey and conservation of natural resources, impact assessment of development projects, pollution control and regeneration of the degraded parts of the environment wherever necessary. We have an extensive programme of research, education and training to support our efforts. We lay a great stress on creation of environmental awareness among all sections of our population. We are prepared to share our experiences with other members in South Asia and, in turn, learn from them. To quote our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi "As experience grows and lacunae in knowledge are filled, answers will slowly be found to the complex questions of development and environment. The search for the right answers must go relentlessly. It is a worldwide endeavour to which India pledges unstinting support."

For this sharing process among us to succeed, it is essential that we build up the SACEP substantially. It is no secret that we have not so far succeeded in establishing a strong foundation for our co-operative programme. The resources needed for laying such a strong foundation are small compared to our economic might, even though our countries are not rich by any standard. Given the will, it is not beyond our means to lay this foundation through our own contributions. Of course, where major programmes are concerned, we can certainly seek co-operation with multilateral and bilateral agencies. But the basic infrastructure for dealing with this programme should be financed by ourselves. This view of our country had been made during the last meeting of the Governing Council and I will repeat it here. India is prepared to share its part of the burden according to any fair formula devised by the members. We have already suggested such formulae and I make bold to suggest that it should be our first priority during this meeting to agree on a formula for regular contributions by the member countries.



I am sure that this meeting will result in several sound decisions which lay a solid foundation for the growth of our environment programme and in providing an action plan for sustainable development. Before concluding, I would like to warmly thank the Government of Afghanistan for their warm hospitality and for the excellent arrangements made for this conference.

I wish Afghanistan resounding success in their attempts for peace and progress.

**ADDRESS BY MR M. J. KAZEM,  
DIRECTOR, SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME.**

Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

On behalf of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, let me extend to you a warm welcome to Kabul and to the Fourth Governing Council Meeting of SACEP. Here in Afghanistan, it is the dawn of Spring which naturally brings hope to all of us. It is my earnest hope that the deliberations of this Governing Council will also bring a fresh lease of life and impetus to SACEP. Afghanistan has been a keen supporter of SACEP and in fact hosting this important meeting is a clear manifestation of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, to support and strengthen this young Organisation, for which we are grateful.

One must remember that we all live on one Earth and our dependence is on One biosphere for the sustenance of life. Each of us strives for survival with little or no regard to the consequences and the impact on others. Consumption of earth's limited resources in some countries is alarming whilst others consume far too little and thereby live with a threat of hunger, poverty and early death. There needs to be a global concern and a stronger sense of awareness making this one earth a safer and sounder home for us and for the future generations.

Our own region, South Asia, is a region where five of SACEP's member countries have been classified by the United Nations System as least developed countries. Our region has a population of over one billion people. While other regions in the world have reduced their birth rates, South Asia continues to grow at an average rate of 2.1 per cent a year. Threats of over population, poverty, desertification coupled with numerous instances of natural disasters have made this region possibly the most ravaged in the world. The need to harmonize the relationship between alleviation of poverty, Conservation of scarce natural resources and development is most felt here. It has to be reiterated that the States in the region have to adopt such development policies that integrate production with resource conservation and enhancement and aim at the concept of sustainable development. Such development approach provides a framework for the integration of environmental policies and development strategies and will meet the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability to meet those of the future.

SACEP, within a short span of six years, has achieved much, inspite of limited financial resources and various other constraints. The work in the field of Environmental Legislation, the introduction of Environmental Impact Assessment into development process and the efforts in combating the menace of loss of tree cover through the declaration of 1988 as the 'Year of Trees for South Asia,' are just a few of the activities undertaken by this Organisation.

Perhaps its greatest achievement has been the introduction of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme into the region. But it should be clearly mentioned that compared with the enormous task and actions required to check the destruction and deterioration of Environment in the region, our achievements are insignificant. This Governing Council Meeting has a vital role to play to revive the pledges of the Member Countries to consider seriously the aspects of collective co-operation in the field of environment and to take decisions which will ensure that SACEP could continue to function effectively. Firm commitments will have to be made by the Member States to ensure the financial stability of SACEP. Policy decisions and programme re-formulation will have to be undertaken in the light of current environmental trends, and with the expected increase in workload with the finalization of the South Asian Seas Programme, adequate measures will have to be taken to strengthen the Secretariat.

For any co-operative programme, the activities and inputs of each participating state would naturally enhance the stature of the total output. In this respect, it is essential that members who have the potential and capabilities to contribute more, in order to enrich the activities of SACEP, should do so, in the true spirit of co-operation. This aspect was reiterated strongly in the past three Governing Council meetings, but unfortunately, no practical measures were taken to strengthen the very foundation of SACEP and enhance regional co-operation in this field as desired.

Let me wish all those gathered here a very pleasant stay in Kabul and may the deliberations of this meeting be fruitful and contribute significantly towards making SACEP a viable and vibrant entity in the South Asian Region.

Thank you.

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
GOVERNING COUNCIL - FOURTH MEETING  
25th - 26th APRIL 1988  
KABUL, AFGHANISTAN**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Office Bearers
3. Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
4. Statements by Heads of Member Country Delegations
5. Statements by United Nations Agencies, International/Regional Organisations and Aid Consortia
6. **INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**
  - a) SACEP Secretariat
  - b) Report of the Special Committee appointed to Review the issue of the SACEP Vienna Liaison Office in totality
  - c) Subject Area Focal Points
7. **PROGRAMME MATTERS**
  - a) Review of Priority Programmes and Projects undertaken by SACEP (Director's Report)
  - b) Review of Activities of Subject Area Focal Points - Report by Member Countries
  - c) Review of International Co-operation
8. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**
  - a) Report of the Consultative Committee of SACEP on the Formula to be adopted for the sharing of the Annual Expenditure of the SACEP Secretariat
  - b) Report of the Consultative Committee of SACEP on the establishment of a Trust Fund
  - c) Approval of the latest Annual Audited Report of Accounts of SACEP
  - d) Approval of Budget for the Secretariat 1988
9. Appointment of New Director
10. Any other matters
11. Adoption of Report
12. Closure of Meeting

**STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE AFGHANISTAN DELEGATION,  
HONOURABLE MR. F. M. TARIN,  
MINISTER FOR LIGHT AND FOODSTUFF INDUSTRIES,  
REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Afghan delegation, I extend my best wishes to the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme and it gives me great pleasure to welcome the distinguished delegates of the member countries and the representatives of the United Nations Organisations.

I take this opportunity to convey our special thanks to His Excellency Mr Ansari, the Minister of Environment and Forests of India, represented by Mr Sarma for his great endeavours as the Third Chairman of the SACEP Governing Council. Mr Ansari has not been able to participate in the Meeting due to official engagements.

Honourable Guests,

You are well aware that the United Nations Conference on Human Environment held at Stockholm in 1972 made a declaration that "the protection and improvement of human environment is a major issue which affects the well being of the people and economic development throughout the world". Since then there has been growing tendency in the developed and developing countries to manage the environmental problems for their sustained development. In most of the developing countries the Government machinery for environmental management is still at a formative stage.

The Government of Republic of Afghanistan is keen to strengthen environmental management in the country and believes that the development projects which are environmentally sound, not only add to the wealth of the community but also provide protection of useful or cherished features of man's habitat.

The development plans and strategies of the Government of Afghanistan include among other priority objectives, the conservation and extension of forestry in the country. Forests constitute one of the important natural resources of the country and by rational utilisation of this resource, the individual as well as social economy of the country can be strengthened. Therefore, the Government plans to enhance the technical and planning capability of its Forestry and Range management for increased wood production through strengthening the institutional frame-work, applied research and extension, demonstrating production and benefits of high quality planting materials to improve the low yield of existing plantations in the country; as developing a cadre of trained personnel.

Distinguished Delegates,

As you are aware the year 1988 has been designated by SACEP as Year of Trees for Asia and Pacific. To achieve this objective, the Government of Afghanistan is undertaking a vast programme; the special features of which are:

- A programme of afforestation and re-afforestation has been launched and will be continued through planting the areas located largely in watersheds for protection of agricultural land against erosion.
- Improve current programme, the better management of forest nurseries to raise various forestry species seedlings to fulfil the increasing demand of the public.
- Implementing a voluntary programme of planting trees for greenery purposes all over the country.
- Introducing and improving the programme of supply and distribution of seedlings to the people to promote greenery and improve the ecological conditions.
- Establishment of audio visual facilities to create awareness, enthusiasm and co-operation between the people and forestry department in providing poplars and other fast growing species.
- A programme of improvement of indigenous poplars through rejuvenation of the stock.

Distinguished Delegates,

Desertification is a serious problem in Afghanistan. Request was made for consultancy services from UNDP under the project, "Combating Desertification through Integrated Development". One of the most important projects to combat desertification in Afghanistan is through the integrated development approach in Siestan depression over a vast area in the south western region of the country. As you are aware that Afghanistan is the Focal Point for the Subject Matter Area of Social Forestry, a separate paper on the details of our activity in this field has been prepared which will be presented in this meeting under the respective agenda item.

Distinguished Delegates and Honourable Guests,

Afghanistan is rich in new and renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind, biogas and micro-hydel resources. In Afghanistan traditional types of energy sources such as firewood, charcoal, crop residue and animal dung which are used as fuels in the rural areas for domestic purposes constitute about 75 to 80 per cent of the total energy consumption in the country. The development of renewable source of energy in future will certainly have great impact on partially solving the energy crisis in Afghanistan.

The Government of Republic of Afghanistan has established a project titled "New and renewable Energy Centre" under the Ministry of Electrical Energy in Kabul with the United Nations aid to carry out applied research, design and development of new and renewable energy equipments etc. Realising the importance of development and proper utilisation of the new and renewable sources of energy in the countryside, proposals for strengthening of the New and Renewable Energy Research and Development Centre of the Ministry of Electrical Energy has been submitted to the United Nations Development Programme in Kabul. (Copy of the project proposals is available with the Secretariat of this Meeting).

Afghanistan is also actively pursuing objectives, goals and programmes of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. The following United Nations sponsored projects in the water and sanitation sector are currently underway:

- Water Management, Sanitation for Kabul City,
- Solid Waste Management in Kabul City,
- Kabul Water Supply, Hospital Sanitation etc.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The importance of environmental education as an integral part of general education, has been recognised by the concerned Afghan authorities. The decision makers in the field of education in the Republic of Afghanistan are seriously searching for ways and means to introduce environmental studies at all grades, levels in most of the subjects, in manners appropriate to the subject areas, ages of the children and conditions of the local environment.

The Government of Afghanistan has always been a staunch supporter of SACEP and looks forward to the attempts of SACEP in solving the environmental problems of our region. While Afghanistan fully supports the programmes of SACEP, we would be pleased to co-operate closely with other member countries of SACEP to realise the objectives and aspirations of the organisation.

We appreciate and congratulate SACEP for the good progress made in formulation and implementation of the projects like - Environmental Legislation, Integrated Energy Saving Domestic Stoves and Fuelwood Systems Project etc. We hope by strengthening the institutional structure and resources of SACEP, it will be possible to have better liaison between the SACEP Secretariat and the Focal Points. The Governing Council long time ago adopted a resolution to strengthen the institutional structure of SACEP but not much success has been achieved even till date perhaps due to inadequate financial resources available with SACEP. We commend the Consultative Council of SACEP for its efforts to find an acceptable formula for the solution of this problem and suggest that contribution of the member countries should be solicited in addition to the assistance being received from the international funding agencies and donor countries.

Likewise we support the co-operation between SACEP and other organisations in the region in particular with the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC). Afghanistan itself is interested in the activities of SAARC and has already submitted its proposals for the membership of SAARC and looks forward to active participation in this Regional Organisation.

Let me conclude by thanking you for your kind attention. I congratulate the Director and the staff of SACEP for the excellent documentation and preparations for this meeting.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE BHUTANESE DELEGATION,  
H.E. MR DAGO TSHERING,  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS,  
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN**

Mr Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to extend my felicitations to you on your election as the Chairman of this Council Meeting. I would also like to congratulate the Vice Chairmen and the Rapporteur in their election. Under your guidance, I am confident that the deliberations of this meeting will be fruitful.

Mr Chairman, we in Bhutan in the process of development attach great importance to the conservation and protection of our environment. We have launched the Sixth Five Year Plan in 1987. In Bhutan seventy per cent of our land is covered by forests. Based on the principles of silviculture afforestation is an important part of the programmes of the Sixth Five Year Plan. Realising the fact that the forest is vital for a balanced development, the conservation of forests started in the Fifties.

Due to the compulsion of our physical landscape and nature's arbitrariness, agriculture occupies a position of the most significant degree in Bhutan. Therefore, protection of water catchment areas and finding alternatives to the menace of slash and burn are receiving priority.

There are other programmes for participation of the people through social forestry. Such activities are launched to meet the local demands of fodder, firewood and small timber needs of the village community in the long run. Bhutan is well endowed with varieties of wild life species and for their protection hunting is restricted in the sanctuaries and the areas designated as the national parks.

Because of man's capacity to despoil his own environment and the increasing risk of degradation, the campaign for protection of ecology is being extended even to schools. This is being done because of our increasing concern for environmental degradation and with the hope that the younger generation in the country will continue to pay equal attention to the importance of balanced development.

Bhutan is a land-locked country, located as we are in the heart of the Himalayas. Among our material resources, the greatest unquestionably is the land. But we have also come to realise that our people have enormous capacity for destroying the valued natural resources. Perhaps Bhutan is no exception in this respect. When we look around us and beyond our geographical boundaries and even in our own region, people did cut down and burn most of the useable timber from forested hillsides and valleys. They overgrazed and denuded the grasslands, killed most of the wild life and much of the fish including other water life. Such situations caused erosion, clogging of the streams, reservoirs, irrigation channels, and harbours with silt. In the name of exploration and exploitation of natural resources and mining of minerals people continuously assaulted the favourable environment. They then moved to the new land. Through such process the favourable environment is reduced to degradation.

Mr Chairman, our region is also now much more densely populated than it was in earlier times. Generally speaking the rate of change has enormously accelerated, and there are no new land to move to. The risk of over-exploitation of the remaining forests is ominously high. The similarity of our conditions coupled with an identifiability of life style stand out as great boon to make joint concerted efforts at the regional level to solve problems of regional nature.

The situation in our region is not irretrievable. Thus we must find ways and means of using our resources wisely. SACEP to this end could facilitate to provide the conditions for greater solidarity beyond our national boundaries. We believe, an attack on poverty need not be an assault on our environment. It is in the light of these factors that co-operation and sharing of experiences among the SACEP members assume special importance and relevance. If the organisation can help identify areas of co-operation and exchanges, we should take advantage of the opportunity and make concerted efforts in pooling our experiences.

It is apparent from the reports of the past Council Meetings that there is a wealth of experience in the region and these experiences can be transmitted in many ways to resolve our common problem.

While some spread through published literature and personal exchanges, most can be transmitted through training and participation and visits to each other countries and organised field programmes. The documents before us, prepared by the SACEP Secretariat indicates the line of activities for co-operation. My delegation is appreciative of the hard work done by the Director and his staff in preparing these useful documents. We are hopeful that through such process the spirit of co-operation among the member countries will further be strengthened.

Mr Chairman, in the final analysis development should mean taking our place in our surroundings with greater awareness of what it means to us. Just as the countries are inter-dependent so are the people to their culture, landscape, forest and flora and fauna which make up their total environment as well as their total resources.

Mr Chairman, one thing is apparent that the development process is becoming increasingly influenced by international forces. The external influence invariably affects the lives of our people and the process of developmental activities in the region. So solutions to these problems are inevitably international. So we hope the concerned UN Organisations and the countries beyond our region will not shy away from fulfilling their responsibilities.

In conclusion I am tempted to share a paragraph from a book written by two highly experienced ecologists, Tom Dale and Vernon Gill Carter. Their book is called "Top Soil and Civilisation." In the opening paragraphs they wrote, "Civilised man was nearly always able to become master of his environment temporarily. His chief troubles came from his delusions that his temporary mastership was permanent. He thought himself as "Master of the World" while failing to understand fully the laws of nature.

Man, whether civilised or savage, is a child of nature, he is not the master of nature. He must conform his actions to certain natural laws, if he is to maintain his dominance over his environment. When he tries to circumvent nature, he usually destroys the natural environment that sustains him. And when his environment deteriorates rapidly, his civilisation declines."

Lastly, on behalf of my delegation, and on my own behalf, I would like to express our sincere thanks to our host, the Government and the people of Afghanistan, for their generous hospitality and the arrangements made for this Fourth Council Meeting of SACEP.

## STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF INDIAN DELEGATION

Mr Chairman and Distinguished Guests,

I have great pleasure in participating in this meeting of the Fourth Governing Council of the SACEP. We had met more than a year ago in New Delhi and had taken some important decisions after extensive discussions. It is now time to review the action taken on these decisions and remove the impediments in the path of our progress.

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We, on our part, must resist the temptation of emphasising development and ignoring environment. India, during the last two decades, has attempted to protect the environment through several steps such as survey and conservation of natural resources, impact assessment of development projects, pollution control and regeneration of the degraded parts of the environment wherever necessary. We have an extensive programme of research, education and training to support our efforts. We lay a great stress on creation of environmental awareness among all sections of our population. We are prepared to share our experiences with other members in South Asia and, in turn, learn from them. To quote our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi "As experience grows and lacunae in knowledge are filled, answers will slowly be found to the complex questions of development and environment. The search for the right answers must go relentlessly. It is a worldwide endeavour to which India pledges unstinting support."

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I am sure that this meeting will result in several sound decisions which lay a solid foundation for the growth of our environment programme and in providing an action plan for sustainable development. Before concluding, I would like to warmly thank the Government of Afghanistan for their warm hospitality and for the excellent arrangements made for this conference.

I wish Afghanistan resounding success in their attempts for peace and progress.



**STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE IRANIAN DELEGATION,  
MR AHAMAD KHUDADADI,  
CHARGE D' AFFAIRES,  
EMBASSY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN,  
AFGHANISTAN**

I on behalf of my country participate in this conference, a country which has strongly felt the problems and other matters relating to the environment. In spite of the fact that the Imperialists and Neo Colonialists with their Cartels and trustees who used to take the resources and minerals of the third world and through these activities they destroy the environment, they are still not satisfied and try to get more benefits from the limited resources of this world.

We have heard of the history of a special kind of gas which is used to produce sprays and we also know that the extraction of this gas is banned as this gas forms a covering round the earth and prevents dangerous gases from reaching the earth, but in spite of repeated warnings by environmental organisations and other International organisations, this gas is extracted by the big Imperialist companies thereby posing a bleak and unknown future for the people of the 21st century. Furthermore these Imperialist organisations manufacture dangerous weapons and give them to our criminally active neighbours who have used them for the past nine years in the imposed war, on the orders of their masters. This caused pollution in one of the historical and strategic areas of the world.

Attacks on the tanker ships which was started by the criminal regime and the continued attacks on our oil wells in the Persian Gulf by the same Western Countries goes to make the Persian Gulf a stagnant area of Water and the effects of this to the environment will be more dangerously felt in the South Western region.

Bombardment by the use of Chemical Weapons on civilian areas, cities and villages will have its long term effects and will inevitably destroy the environment.

- We hope that one day some section of mankind would realise this and the Imperialist Cartels and Trustees will give more thought to the environment and become aware and think much more of the innocent human beings who want to live in peace.
- We hope that one day will come when nobody would manufacture Chemical Weapons and use them.
- We hope that one day mineral and industrial resources will be utilised only for legitimate purposes.
- We hope that one day that the atomic bomb would be destroyed and the atomic energy will be used only for development.
- We hope that the exploding of any kind of atomic device will be banned.
- We hope that one day human resources will not be spent for making dangerous weapons but using the resources for the welfare of the people and make the environment safe.
- We hope that the use of chemical weapons on the people of Halabcheh which caused the death of over 6000 innocent Kurdish people will not be repeated.
- We hope that chemical weapons will not be used against innocent people and
- We hope that the environment of the Persian Gulf will be free of pollution and the Imperialist will leave the area.

So that Peace and Friendship will be established in the region and the environment will be safe.

**STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE SRI LANKA DELEGATION.  
HONOURABLE D. B. WIJETUNGE,  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH  
AND MINISTER OF FOOD.  
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA.**

Mr Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to have had this opportunity to address the 4th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP, as the Leader of the Sri Lanka delegation. First, it is both my duty and my pleasure to express our gratitude to our host - the Government of Afghanistan for the kind and warm hospitality extended to us.

Today, we are meeting at a time when the need to find solutions to environmental problems has become critical. Indeed at no time in human history, has the need for remedial action been so urgent and insistent.

All of us are now well aware that the only place where human life can exist in its natural form is on the surface of the planet Earth. If we do not nurture the environmental patrimony which we have inherited, we will be the last generation to enjoy it. It is in this context that I ask you to remember that the obligation of this Conference are not only to our peoples and to our age - our commitment must also be to those as yet unborn.

During recent decades, the energies and efforts of all our countries were increasingly focussed on the goals of development. But, while populations grew faster than the rate of food production, while millions of people remained poor and undernourished; nations continued with the process of depleting their natural resources.

As the year 2000 draws near, our people will need more of everything. They will need more food, more fresh water, more houses and more raw materials. Therefore, the main concern of all our national actions would undoubtedly be both the qualitative and quantitative improvement of living standards and living conditions of our people. This would imply an even higher development effort. Such an endeavour would be based on the pursuit of work, of social organisations and of technologists.

Most importantly, this endeavour has to be based on the rational use of natural resources. During the recent past, the world has become increasingly disenchanted with the validity of conventional growth patterns. There is the increasing realization that development and environment are inter-dependent; that long-term development can only be achieved through sound environmental management.

The depletion of the resource base, and the resulting environmental crisis, is seen all over the world. But it is most acute in our developing countries; especially in South Asia. The population that we have to deal with is much larger; the poverty in large parts of the region is more widespread; the disparities are more striking than in developed countries or in other developing regions; and the legitimate aspirations of peoples could well erode our natural habitat further.

On the other hand, there are rich traditions in our South Asian Region to draw upon. As you are aware Sri Lanka is a small island which had a well developed civilization dating back to pre-Christian time. In the old agrarian societies of our countries, with their annual cycles of sowing, growth and harvests, the harmony of nature and human beings was maintained. Our religious and cultural traditions are more conducive to austerity and a disciplined life-style. Therefore, it is time that we reinforce our historic covenants between man and nature and apply new disciplines in our march towards development. Physical methods alone will not provide all these answers. It is necessary to have a renaissance of traditional values. I call upon this Conference to accept this challenge - to perceive and advance environmentalism within the framework of our traditional verities. This, I believe, is the only alternative left for achieving realistic national growth.

Distinguished Delegates, as you are aware, since its inception the SACEP has come a long way. There is an awareness to foster sustainable development without destroying the resource base. Though beset by various hardships and problems we have courageously attempted to achieve our goals and targets. It has contributed a great deal to the sharing of common experiences traditions and ethics in our co-operative efforts towards the protection of the environment in our region.

We are proud to record that both the Meeting of Ministers in 1981 to establish SACEP as well as the First Governing Council Meeting were inaugurated in Colombo by the Hon. the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. We are fortunate to have its head office in Colombo and we are continuing to provide the host facilities for the purpose of achieving environmentally, sound development in the region.

SACEP has identified Sri Lanka as its focal point for environmental impact assessment and environment and development. I am happy to state that my country has achieved considerable progress in incorporating the environmental dimension into the national planning process. We have developed strategies and procedures for the application of environmental impact assessment. Environmental impact assessment has been made mandatory for all development projects and programmes, both in the public and private sectors since 1984. Now we are engaged in developing an appropriate and a workable methodology to incorporate environmental concerns into regional and local level planning and development processes.

We have conducted a number of training courses including a regional workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures.

At the First Governing Council Meeting the resolution mooted by the Sri Lankan delegation for 'The Year of the Trees' in South Asia in 1988 was unanimously adopted. This was not only fully endorsed by the UNEP, but also extended to encompass the whole of Asia and the Pacific Region. In this connection Sri Lanka has launched the catalytic 'Hundred Million Trees Programme' which is the Sri Lankan contribution to mark 'The Year of Trees for South Asia 1988.' We are very happy to announce that this programme is about to be completed successfully.

Several programmes initiated by SACEP during this period such as the South Asian Seas Programme, Survey of Legislation and Institutions in SACEP Region have proved the usefulness of co-operative action to combat the environmental problems of the region.

Distinguished Delegates, all of us have come from developing countries. Most of our problems are common to all of us. Most of them are deeply rooted in poverty, rapid population growth and socio-economic changes. At the same time, in our Region, there is an urgent need for development. Poverty itself brings in its wake, environmental degradation. Therefore, it is no longer possible to contrast the preservation of the environment with the necessity for development. Thus, it is in this context that our strategies for the preservation and betterment of the environment would coincide with development. Both should be related and inseparable expressions of the capacity of man to improve his life as well as to provide for the well being of future generations.

In the last 2 years, sustainable development has been placed on the World Agenda particularly on the Agenda of the UNEP by important documents such as 'Our Common Future' - the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. Sustainable development is a process that ensures the protection and conservation of the natural resources base while permitting the rational utilization of such resources. The path of sustainable development should be started by reviving growth. Without growth and development nothing will be left for human survival.

South Asia is a comparatively small region with limited resources and high population density. Most of the people are directly dependant on natural resources such as land, water and soil. There is no alternative to meet the basic needs of the common people other than pursuing a path of rapid economic and social growth and development.

Distinguished Delegates, we are firmly convinced that the alternate development model that we are seeking should be firmly based on sustainability, self-reliance and community participation. For thousands of years, the people in our countries used local resources prudently and handed them over intact from generation to generation. This may have been accomplished as a part of their traditions and values which were based on living in harmony with nature. In terms of material possessions they may have been poor. But as for the right balance between people and environment as well as development and nature, they were undoubtedly richer than we are today. Our resolve at this Conference should be to attempt the restoration of that balance. While we should do what we can to bring the material benefits of modern science and technology to increase the standards of living of our people, we must strive to apply a less wasteful development pattern.

Thus the incorporation of environmental concerns into the decision making process from the grass root level up to the national level, has become an urgent and timely need. Successful incorporation of environmental components into the development strategies depend on the formulation and adoption of an appropriate and

workable methodology that is conducive in the context of developing countries. The approach should be a bottom up process rather than a top down process. We have to address the real decision makers, namely the farmers, the small land owners and the common people. It should be an integrated, a holistic and a multi-sectoral approach rather than the traditional sectoral approach.

Not only that, we have to change attitudes to develop new ethics. We have to establish strong environmental organizations not only at national level but also at the grass root level. In order to achieve this, no doubt, we have to strive hard. Finding environmentally sound strategies to achieve socio-economic and political goals is not an easy task. This task cannot be achieved in isolation. The time thus has come for us to get together to address this problem collectively. We have to sustain the future of our shared region and also to sustain our common ethics and common humanity. This would be the most valuable legacy for the future.

Let me now conclude by thanking our host - the Government of Afghanistan once again. Let me commend the Director and the Staff of SACEP for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting. While offering our best wishes to SACEP, let me also reiterate Sri Lanka's commitment for achieving the objectives of SACEP. I have no doubt that this forum will strengthen closer ties among all our South Asian Countries.

I thank you.

**STATEMENT BY DR. R. D. DESHPANDE,  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OFFICER,  
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME,  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC,  
BANGKOK, THAILAND**

On behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, let me convey to you sincere greetings and best wishes from Dr M K Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP and Dr Nay Htun, Director and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Government of Afghanistan for their hospitality for this meeting inspite of many other pressing demands, which is clearly indicative of their dedication to dealing with the problems of the environment.

I would also like this opportunity to commend Mr Kazem, the Director of SACEP for looking after his responsibilities in a spirit of dedication under very difficult circumstances.

UNEP has been privileged to be closely involved with the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) since its establishment in 1981. The importance of SACEP's motto - "before you look outside for what you need, look inside for what you have" - cannot but be overstressed in the present context when all international organizations are facing severe resource constraints. UNEP strongly believes in promoting the endogenous capabilities of the SACEP countries for overcoming their environmental problems and working out the harmonious balance between the process of development and resources of nature.

Because of the great diversity in regard to topography, rainfall and water, soils, flora and fauna, environmental challenges are many and SACEP will need to make determined efforts especially in tackling shared forms of environmental problems such as desertification, dryland degradation deforestation, (conservation of wildlife and plant species so essential to ensure genetic diversity), soil erosion and salinization, water shortage and pollution, and spread of environmentally linked diseases. Industrial pollution has assumed serious proportions because of rapid growth in the manufacturing sector. These challenges are formidable, and therefore deep commitment and firm resolve on the part of the SACEP countries would be needed to tackle these in a spirit of self-reliance. This should not be difficult for SACEP countries which share glorious religious and cultural traditions and spiritual values so essential for ensuring sustainable development.

This decade has witnessed heightened concern especially among developing countries about environmental issues such as misuse of environmental resources. These concerns have been distilled in UNEP's document "The Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond" which represents a consensus of the views of more than 50 governments who took part in drafting it. And it has been endorsed, at the UN General Assembly by nearly 100 other governments. It states "The overall goal must be the advancement of human well-being that is sustainable on the basis of prudent management of available natural resources and environmental capacities and the rehabilitation of degraded and misused environments". These wise words would provide stimulus to decision-makers, including those in this meeting involved in trying to turn that official conviction into government commitment and action.

To the end of the century and beyond, the World Commission Report and the Environmental Perspective are dominated by two themes: interdependence and sustainability. In the environmental context, interdependence rests on facts of ecological linkages which know no frontiers. They require co-operation and respond to common action. There are many areas, those are opportunities for and benefits from improved international co-operation. In many cases, countries may have to face serious consequences if such co-operation is not strengthened. The interests of the nations are intertwined and not even the most advanced nation can solve problems in isolation. Economic development has to be balanced and guided by environmental limits. It is in conformity with this spirit that SACEP countries have to redouble their efforts and intensify co-operation and benefit through sharing of their experiences.

SACEP has prepared a coherent framework of ideas and action and has identified a number of subject areas of priority concern to SACEP countries. It has been UNEP's endeavour to encourage vigorous efforts to address the problems in these subject areas. One of the principal areas in which UNEP has the capability to assist member governments is the management of ocean resources and prevention of ocean pollution.

One of the more successful environmental ventures of UNEP is its Regional Seas Programme. The Programme was initiated in 1974 and has enjoyed the repeated endorsements of UNEP's Governing Council on its regional approach to the control of marine and coastal areas pollution and management of these resources through the development of regional action plans.

The Regional Seas Programme at present includes 10 regions. The first regional action plan was developed and adopted in 1974 for the Mediterranean. In the ensuing years a further eight regions adopted action plans which now involve over 120 States, 14 United Nations agencies and over 40 other international and regional organizations taking part in UNEP's effort to protect the marine environment and promote sound management practices.

The tenth region in UNEP's Regional Seas Programme is the South Asian Seas, where five of the SACEP countries that share common marine and coastal environmental problems have decided to initiate this programme.

Initially UNEP was confident that with reliance on the experience gained in the other nine Regional Seas Programmes the development of a similar action plan for the South Asian Seas would be the least costly and time consuming. However, after over five years of efforts and devoting considerable financial and manpower resources, as well as co-operation extended by SACEP in this endeavour, it is regrettable to note that the development of the action plan for the South Asian Seas region has not been as expeditious or trouble free as originally expected. Paradoxically, UNEP has been able to work faster and more efficiently in regions where, in connection with the protection of their marine environment, some States with strong conflicting political views and even being engaged in armed conflict have been brought together where despite their differences they have agreed to co-operate on the control of their marine and coastal pollution.

The delay in the development of the South Asian Seas regional programme is not due to UNEP's lack of commitment or efforts. Perhaps a brief look at the history of the events so far could provide a clue or possibly an answer on how the problem can now be tackled and resolved with the least delay.

Following the decision 10/20 of UNEP's Governing Council in 1982 and a mission of a high level consultant to the coastal States of SACEP, the Executive Director of UNEP submitted his recommendations to the eleventh session of the Governing Council. By decision 11/7 of 24 May 1983, the UNEP Governing Council noted "the consultations carried out in accordance with Council decision 10/20 of 31 May 1982" and requested "the Executive Director to designate the South Asian Seas as a region to be included in the Regional Seas Programme, in close collaboration with the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme and Governments in the region, and to assist in the formulation of a plan of action for the environmental protection of the South Asian Seas."

As a follow-up to the decision 11/7 of the Governing Council and in spite of a period of severe financial austerity measures engulfing UNEP and the whole United Nations system, UNEP has convened a total of three meetings to discuss possible steps leading to the adoption of an action plan.

The first meeting of national focal points (Bangkok, 19-21 March 1984) recommended preparation of a number of documents, including individual country reports on national marine and coastal problems, an overview based on the country reports addressing the problem in a regional context and various draft documents such as the action plan reflecting the conclusions of the country reports and the overview, one on legislative aspects of the action plan and a draft of institutional and financial arrangements needed for the implementation of the action plan.

All these documents were prepared by UNEP and as recommended by the first meeting of national focal points they were presented to a meeting of experts which UNEP, in co-operation with SACEP, convened in Bangkok during 2-5 December 1986.

The meeting of experts reviewed and revised these documents and recommended SACEP, as the potential secretariat of the action plan, to prepare proposals covering various aspects of the Trust Fund and the proposed secretariat of the action plan. The meeting also identified six priority projects and recommended UNEP to implement them, subject to the availability of funds, prior to the formal adoption of the action plan.

In response to this recommendation UNEP allocated funds from its limited financial resources and has already initiated the implementation of two of these priority projects, with the assistance of IMO and IUCN, at a total cost of US \$ 247,000 of which US \$ 175,000 is provided from the resources of the Environment Fund and the rest by IMO and IUCN respectively. UNEP has also provided funds to SACEP to develop a project proposal for one of the priority projects identified by the meeting of experts and is formulating the proposals

for a further two projects with the assistance of IOC and UNESCO respectively. The last priority project is being developed by ESCAP as its contribution to the development of the action plan. Implementation of the four remaining projects requires an additional US \$ 469,000 from UNEP's Environment Fund and an estimated US \$ 250,000 from other international organizations. Without taking into account the requirements needed for these four remaining projects, UNEP's total past support to the development of the action plan amounted to US \$ 560,518.

Following these activities, the second meeting of the national focal points was convened last year by UNEP in Bangkok during 7-11 December 1987. It was expected that this meeting by adopting a consolidated approach to the proposed future institutional and financial arrangements needed for the support of the action plan, would pave the way for the adoption of the action plan in early 1988 by a high level intergovernmental meeting. Regrettably, as it will be reported in greater detail by the SACEP Secretariat under agenda item 7 of this meeting, the meeting not only failed to contribute towards adoption of a consolidated approach but by not supporting or endorsing the recommendations of previous meetings, it has in effect ignored the previous efforts and achievements of all involved and reversed the progress made in the past years. Furthermore, the turning of a statement in a report prepared by the scientists of the region, acting in their personal capacity, into a major political issue by certain national focal points is considered with grave concern.

UNEP remains committed to the development of a programme for the South Asian Seas region, and is certain that this sentiment is shared by SACEP's Secretariat too, although the outcome of the last meeting of national focal points is casting a serious doubt on the willingness of the States concerned to negotiate the adoption of a regional programme and a suitable legal and financial framework for the implementation of such a programme. Therefore, unless the concerned SACEP Governments clearly express and demonstrate their long-term political and financial commitment as well as their willingness to revive the desire to develop an action plan for the region, there is very little more that UNEP can contribute at this stage.

UNEP has been co-operating with SACEP in a number of activities. Catalytic assistance has been provided to enabling SACEP member countries to commemorate the Day of the Trees on 8 March 1988, preparation of audio-visual programmes for distribution to member countries, publication of SACEP Newsletter and consultancy and logistical support towards organization of this and all the past meetings of the Governing Council.

In other activities, SACEP joined UNEP, with generous financial support from the Netherlands Government, in organizing a senior level expert workshop in March last year at Colombo, to evaluate benefit and constraints of Environmental Impact Assessment in SACEP countries. The workshop attracted wide attention throughout Asia and the Pacific region. Printed copies have been distributed to a large number of government agencies in SACEP countries involved in economic development and sustainable use of natural resources.

In India, UNEP collaborated with National Wasteland Development Board, East-West Centre, Hawaii, Australian Government, and with Canadian International Development Agency funds and organized a successful workshop on economics of dryland degradation and rehabilitation. The workshop provided useful input for refining the products of the global project particularly (i) Case Studies and (ii) Technical Guide. These will be widely disseminated. UNEP has conveyed to the Ganga directorate, its willingness to provide catalytic assistance if required by the Government of India so that India's experience in Ganga river clean-up can be widely shared by other countries.

Assistance has also been given to the project supported by the Ministry of Environment, Government of India, for preparation of monograph on the Regeneration of Pushkar Lake Valley Ecosystem - a case study in environmental management to combat desertification.

Twelve institutions and laboratories located in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka are collaborating with UNEP in developing a Network in Industrial Environmental Management (NIEM) starting with the pulp and paper industry, with funding support from Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). Under NIEM, two studies have been sponsored on discharge characterization and receiving water quality evaluation and assessment environmental impact of small existing mills.

In Bhutan and Nepal, UNEP is continuing discussions with the Asian Development Bank to assist in environmental institution strengthening so as to improve the countries' capabilities to plan for sustainable development taking into account the major environmental concerns, namely, forest regeneration, management, efficient use, watershed protection, environmental/ecological balance, wildlife protection, appropriate land use and other related areas.

In Pakistan, UNEP collaborated with ESCAP in organizing a National Seminar on Environmental Management for Administrations. The workshop proceedings have been printed and will be distributed to UNEP and ESCAP focal points. UNEP also hopes to collaborate with Sind Arid Zone Development Authority (SAZDA) for combating desertification and rehabilitating productivity of the arid lands in Sind province.

In Bangladesh, UNEP will be collaborating with ESCAP in the organization of training seminar on environmental management for administrations. Following the official visit of the Executive Director of UNEP to Bangladesh, UNEP has indicated its willingness to assist in strengthening institutional mechanisms e.g. reviewing and upgrading environmental legislations and machinery; linkages with other legislations and identity gaps.

As a follow-up of the recommendations of UNEP supported workshop on sound environmental management of tourism, UNEP is trying to catalyze support from international agencies and bilateral donors to undertake a project for recharging the aquifers and stopping the contamination of slender ground water resources.

In Sri Lanka, UNEP has provided assistance to the Institute of Fundamental Studies, Kandy, in establishing an Environmental Fellowship which will focus on forestry conservation. UNEP hopes to assist the National Aquatic Resources Agency (NARA) towards the development of the National Aquatic Resources Management Plan and the National Marine Mammals Programme.

In addition to these activities, UNEP has provided assistance to NGOs in Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Nepal in various activities aimed at enhancing environmental awareness or for holding specialized seminars and workshops.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, UNEP has thus been responding to specific requests from SACEP countries and the number of such requests is growing every year. We, in the UNEP, commend SACEP's efforts. UNEP will continue to support your efforts within our limited capacity. UNEP would like to urge member countries to give adequate and timely assistance so that SACEP can carry out its functions in the most efficient manner and emerge as a powerful instrument for enhancing sub-regional co-operation and promoting sustainable development.

I am indeed privileged to have the honour of representing UNEP at this important meeting and look forward to participating in fruitful discussions.



**STATEMENT BY MR SOMENDU BANNERJEE,  
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE, UNDP,  
KABUL**

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is both a pleasure and a privilege for me to address, on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme, the Fourth Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, which is being hosted by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, the country of my accreditation.

The goal of SACEP which is the promotion of regional co-operation in sound environmental management is also very much the concern of UNDP. As the Administrator of UNDP, Mr William H Draper III, stated in his address to the United Nations General Assembly in 1986, "UNDP knows that barren slopes and leached soils are not the exclusive concern of environmentalists. They are challenges to the world's resource managers and all who support true development". Economic development is closely bound to environmental concerns. The quality of life cannot advance unless the living environment is nurtured and valuable resources protected. The Hon. Minister and Leader of the Delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan, Mr Tarin has earlier kindly alluded to the UNDP financed environment related projects in this country in, inter alia, areas of forestry, water supply, sanitation, solid waste disposal and new and renewable sources of energy, which need no further elaboration. In the context of the mounting global action to reclaim and protect the world's natural resources, on which all economic progress and the future of humanity rests, UNDP continues to play a critical and central role.

Distinguished Delegates,

The world's food yielding crop lands are becoming increasingly scarce; statistics record that by the end of this century, developing countries will be able to provide only an average of 0.19 hectares of crop land per person. Without positive action to replenish soils, crop output will decline. Similarly, another major source of nutrition - fisheries are in danger of severe reduction due to a decline in numbers and rise in demand. Tropical forests are vanishing at the rate of some 11 million hectares a year, leaving precious topsoils exposed to climatic ravages. In addition, more than 3 billion hectares of range land, rainfed crop land and irrigated lands are subject to some form of progressive desertification.

World population is now growing by some 80 million people a year. Between 1950 and 1985, the population of the developed world grew from 800 million to 1.2 billion, while that of developing countries from 1.7 billion to 3.7 billion. The Asia and Pacific Region alone accounts for some 2.7 billion people and this figure is expected to increase to 3.4 billion by the year 2000. These figures underline the urgent need for, inter alia, comprehensive and integrated resource management policies to contain the deterioration of natural resources to sustain the world's growing population.

UNDP's involvement with environmental issues has been both substantial and sustained. Since 1972, UNDP has financed close to 1800 environment related projects, at a total cost of just over US \$ 1 billion. These activities range from projects in agriculture and aquaculture to natural resources development, population issues and human settlements. They have helped to improve environmental health conditions, conserve soil, reclaim range lands and protect forests, watershed and wild life. Projects with environmental impact command an increasing share of UNDP's overall resources. Whereas in 1976, environment related projects accounted for 10.7 percent of UNDP's total programme, in 1986 environment projects accounted for 19.9 percent or some US \$ 123.3 million in resources.

It is these concerns at the global level that have led UNDP to warmly welcome the regional level initiatives establishing SACEP in 1981 and in supporting its activities since.

Distinguished Delegates,

Following the meeting of the Ministers of South Asian Countries, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in February 1981, UNDP provided assistance to SACEP through its regional project RAS/81/091 - Preparatory Assistance for the Developing Countries of South Asia for the Implementation of SACEP Programmes. The project was initially designed as a preparatory assistance effort, with UNDP inputs of US \$ 41,300. The purpose was to

field a three-person consultancy mission to the Region to discuss and identify with SACEP member countries and its focal points, a series of projects and programmes within selected areas. To this end the mission visited Afghanistan, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and identified several priority programmes. The budget of the UNDP-financed project was further increased by US \$ 24,000 to cover three substantive activities: (1) an advisory consultancy on woodstove dissemination in September to October 1984; (2) an environmental legislation workshop in January 1987 in New Delhi, India; and (3) the financing of a number of short-term national consultants and training programmes. Although assistance provided by UNDP under the regional project RAS/81/091 was terminated in December 1987, a new regional initiative RAS/86/158 - Asian Regional Environment project under UNDP's Fourth Cycle is under formulation, for which the World Bank is to be designated as the Executing Agency. This project will be regionwide in scope and will deal with the broad issues of bringing environmental consideration to bear at the levels of development policy formulation, planning and programming, as well as project identification, preparation and appraisal. UNDP expects, through its Resident Representative in Sri Lanka, to keep SACEP informed about training events and the other activities that are planned under this project, in order that SACEP member countries might fully benefit from this effort.

Another Fourth Cycle Regional IPF Project RAS/88/005 - Programme Support to the Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific (DESCONAP) was approved in January 1988 with an UNDP contribution of US \$ 398,700 over a period of 21 months. The project will be executed by ESCAP. This project is also regionwide in scope, dealing with environmental issues which again serves to emphasize the importance and priority given by UNDP to environmental concerns in the Region. As you will be aware, a regional network of research and training centres on desertification was established at the 43rd session of ESCAP, as recommended by an intergovernmental meeting held in Bangkok in September 1986. A two year work programme for the network was also drawn up and approved. These activities, comprising technical publications, national case studies, training and advisory services, are covered under another UNDP-financed project RAS/88/005. UNDP support is limited to programme activities. The main outputs stemming from these activities will consist of three country case studies, dealing with typical regional problems of arid zone management, deforestation, waterlogging and salinity; technical recommendations for resolving specific problems in desertification control; a regional report on available training and research facilities for desertification control; training materials, information bulletins; national tree planting and afforestation programmes, as well as country mission studies on desertification control.

#### Distinguished Participants,

Environmental concerns are universal. They cannot be seen to be the exclusive domain of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and international agencies only, but to involve all people at all levels. They should, in particular be also the concern of private and public sector industry, the agricultural community as well as a concern for scientists, technicians and technocrats who are involved in economic and development activities having a bearing on the environment. Therefore, may I recommend, that in your deliberations on ways and means to promote further co-operation among countries dealing with environmental issues, you might also consider ways and means of enlisting the active participation of all parties, including the private sector, in combating the problems of industrial effluents, toxic wastes, hazardous substances, chemicals, pesticides, fertilisers and their harmful effect on the health and well being of people. Without this total participation and effort, the environmental policies and programmes initiated by Governments and international agencies would have little impact.

On behalf of the Administrator of UNDP, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme and the Director of UNDP's Office of Project Services, which organizations I am privileged to represent at this Council session, may I express our appreciation for the excellent facilities provided by the host Government, the Republic of Afghanistan and the thoroughly professional documentation and preparation arranged by Director Kazem and his staff.

I wish the meeting every success in your deliberations over the next two days.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT BY MR U WAI LIN,  
PROGRAMME OFFICER,  
ENVIRONMENTAL CO-ORDINATING UNIT,  
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION  
FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC,  
BANGKOK, THAILAND**

On behalf of the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Mr S A M S Kibria, I would like to express our deep appreciation to the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) for inviting ESCAP to this Fourth Meeting of the SACEP Governing Council.

The General Assembly, at its forty-second session, adopted resolution 42/187 on the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED). In line with the follow up activities of the WCED, the Environmental Co-ordinating Unit of ESCAP stresses the incorporation of environmental considerations into the process of economic and social development at the regional as well as at the national levels. This, together with the programme element on "Strengthening the environmental dimensions of the commission's work programme", forms two of the five programme elements of ECU's work priorities. In order to integrate environmental considerations into the overall work programme of ESCAP, ECU works through the focal points, established in 1985, in all the divisions and units of the Secretariat. To cite, a few of our activities, ECU has worked together with the Agriculture Division in the area of environmental aspects of pesticide use; with the Natural Resources Division in the area of environmental impact management of water resources development projects; and with the Transport Communications and Tourism Division in the area of environmental impact assessment of road transport development.

ESCAP has also been providing technical assistance and training to its member countries: in the development and application of environmental impact assessment guidelines to various projects and programmes and in strengthening their institutional and legislative frameworks for environmental protection and management.

Promotion of environmental awareness is another priority in the work programme of ESCAP with various target groups such as planners, decision makers, educators, trainers and non-governmental organizations in addition to the general public. In this regard and as an initial step in the follow-up activities of the WCED, ESCAP has disseminated the objectives, major findings and recommendations of the WCED through special issues of the ESCAP Environment News distributed to governments, scientific communities, media and NGOs throughout the Asia and the Pacific region.

In January 1988, ESCAP organized a Regional Conference on Media and the Environment in Asia and Bangkok. One of the major agenda items was "sustainable development in Asia", in which major findings and recommendations of WCED were presented, among others, by Dr Emil Salim, the State Minister for Population and Environment of Indonesia and a member of WCED. An exclusive video message from Mrs Brundtland, Prime Minister of Norway and Chairman of the WCED was also presented at the conference, which adopted a resolution on the role of media in promoting public awareness on sustainable development in the region. A major outcome of the conference was the establishment of the Asian Forum of Environmental Journalist comprising ten national forums and some 400 working journalists and broadcasters making up the network.

Desertification is an important problem of significant dimension in the Asian and Pacific region. As you are aware, 800 million hectares of productive land, including degraded forest and woodland are affected by the process of desertification. This includes over 70 million hectares of valuable rainfed croplands which are severely affected due to drought and another 16 million hectares of irrigated lands have gone out of production due to waterlogging and salinity. Directly affected by this process of desertification are 150 million rural people in this region.

I am also pleased to inform this distinguished body of the establishment, by decision of the forty-third commission session, of a Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific (DESCONAP) in co-operation with UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO and FAO comprising 17 governments and international organizations/agencies. To assist the member countries, ESCAP has undertaken technical assistance missions, organized training workshops and study tours in India, China, USSR and Viet Nam on specific issues as arid-zone agriculture, social forestry, rangeland management, sand dune stabilization and waterlogging and salinity control.

Coastal environment management is another major element in the work of ECU, especially with more than 80 per cent of the region's member countries being maritime. Accordingly, ESCAP has been involved in the development of coastal environmental management plans for Bangladesh, Thailand and Sri Lanka and is assisting Pakistan and Tonga in management of their marine ecosystems. Also, regional, subregional and national training workshops on marine environment protection have been organized with particular emphasis on the South Pacific countries.

It is especially in these two aspects of ESCAP's work programme, i.e., management and protection of terrestrial and marine environment, where ESCAP is hoping for close long term co-operation with SACEP. To highlight the Year of the Trees, ESCAP, with support from UNDP for the Regional DESCONAP Network, posters and brochures have been distributed to focal points and national environmental journalists forums in member countries.

I am pleased to inform you that the recent forty-fourth Session of the ESCAP Commission, which concluded 20th April, decided to convene a ministerial-level conference on the environment for the Asian and the Pacific region in 1990 to review the state of the environment in the region, to examine the problems and prospects of environmental management, to consider long-term environmental problems and to suggest further measures for strengthening regional co-operation and efforts to achieve a better quality of life and environment.

In concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Afghanistan for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

**STATEMENT BY DR HARI C DEWAN,  
OFFICER IN CHARGE OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION (FAO),  
KABUL**

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of Dr Eduard Saouma, Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, I have the honour to convey our profound greetings and best wishes for the success of the 4th Governing Council Meeting of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) which has just been inaugurated this morning.

Environmental concerns are increasing with every passing day at global, regional as well as individual country level, as the World population continues to increase (which reached the 5 billion mark on 11 July, 1987) and the efforts to attain improved standards of living continue. The breakthrough in the agricultural and industrial production to meet these increased demands has resulted in increased pressures on natural resources. Part of the increased agricultural production particularly in the developing world during the last two decades comes from the new lands that have been ploughed by indiscriminate clearing of the forests and other areas which were in many cases highly erodible lands and would soon lose its topsoil and become wasteland, thus diminishing the agricultural resources base. Similarly the increased industrial production resulted in quadrupling the annual fossil fuel consumption from 3 to 12 billion tons of coal equivalent since 1950.

Unfortunately these developments coupled with industrial advancement have resulted in inadvertent breach of many thresholds and resulted in environmental problems. Some of the important ones are - the rising atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other "greenhouse gases" resulting in increase in earth temperatures, the depletion of the ozone layer which would allow more of the sun's ultraviolet rays to reach the earth causing more skin cancers and affecting crop growth, depletion of forests in industrialized countries due to air pollution and acid rain, pollution of soils, lakes and rivers due to industrial waste disposal and leaching of fertilizers and agro-chemicals through rain or excess irrigation, and the combined effect of all these factors on the overall ecosystem and the imminent extinction of species.

The excessive use of the resources and their resultant effects are threatening the very existence of the human race on this planet. If these concerns are not addressed at global, regional and country levels, making fundamental adjustments in population and energy policies in a relatively short time, it will be too late to remedy the situation for the existing population and more so for the posterity. According to a quote "a sustainable society is one which satisfies its needs without diminishing the prospects of the next generation. By many measures, contemporary society has failed to meet these criteria. The questions of ecological sustainability are arising in every continent".

It is encouraging to note, that some of these concerns in priority subject areas of environment are being addressed by SACEP in the developing countries of the South-Asia Region. Established in 1981, SACEP has made progress in making contributions to the various subject areas including environment management, management of natural resources, desertification, regional seas programme, energy and environment and education and training. Considering the resources available and the short time the organization has been operating, the development of some of these programmes is much appreciated. It is hoped that future activities will be augmented with the help of international organizations particularly UNEP and UNDP and the Subject Area Focal Point Institutions.

We, in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are also addressing our concerns to some of the common subject areas of SACEP, however at a global scale, providing assistance to member countries. The FAO programme of work and budget for the biennium 1988-89 emphasizes the need for environmental impact assessment to ensure that environmental aspects are taken into consideration in the development and implementation of projects and programmes, strengthening national environmental capabilities to incorporate environmental consideration into development programmes in order to manage and conserve natural resources for sustained production, energy assessment and planning for rural and agricultural development, promoting the development and utilization of small-scale decentralized energy technologies in agricultural and rural areas based upon the appropriate use of both commercial and renewable energy resources, exchange of information and inter-agency co-operation and inter-departmental co-ordination on environment. Under inter-agency co-operation,

FAO will participate in the preparation of the Second System-wide Medium Term Environment Programme (SWMTEP) which is being drawn up under the aegis of UNEP. Other activities include participation in the Ecosystem Conservation Group and co-operation with UNESCO on the Man and Biosphere Programme.

The Republic of Afghanistan is one of the few fortunate countries which is so far not confronted with the population problem and the industrial development has not endangered the environment. Therefore, it is high time, that the future environmental concerns are addressed at an early stage by incorporating environmental impact assessment into the development programmes. Two major concerns which remain are the fast depletion of forest resources mainly catering for raw materials to the industry and serving the fuelwood needs of rural population and land degradation, resulting partly from the clearing of these forests. The other problem is desertification. The FAO/UNDP forestry project is to some extent addressing the problem of reforestation in the Kabul area by developing nurseries of the fast-growing tree species and the social forestry programme.

We hope, that the social forestry programme will receive a further boost with the assistance from SACEP since the Republic of Afghanistan is the Subject Area Focal Point. We would also like to see some increased activity in the field of desertification in the southern part of the country with the co-operative assistance of SACEP and UNEP. Two other areas which, in my opinion, need assistance are the fuelwood energy conservation by exploring and implementing more efficient methods of utilization and recycling of animal waste products.

With these remarks, once again it is my privilege to extend to the 4th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP our best wishes for their success on my personal behalf and on behalf of my organization (FAO).

Thank you.

# STATEMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Director-General of the World Health Organization, and the Regional Director for WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region, I take pleasure in addressing the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, convened here in Kabul for its fourth meeting.

The publication last year of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, the so-called Brundtland Report, has given a new stimulus to those working at national or international level towards the goal of sustainable development. The concept of sustainable development, which seeks to meet the needs and aspirations of the present generation without compromising the ability to meet needs and aspirations of future generations, will have to become increasingly incorporated into the decision making process at all levels, if we wish to stop the processes of environmental degradation cited in the report. The efforts of programmes for international co-operation, such as SACEP, will be crucial to the success of this trend.

From the viewpoint of the health sector it is clear that the attainment and maintenance of levels of human health allowing an acceptable level of economic and social engagement in everyday community life, is a *conditio sine qua non* for sustainable development. In other words: the final objective of sustainable development is the improvement of the quality of human life, and good health is a precondition without which sustainable development cannot take place. Equitable distribution of basic needs (including primary health care) and the simultaneous management and development of human resources are two principles reinforced in the Brundtland Report, to which the World Health Organisation subscribes unconditionally.

I should like to recall, before this Council, the collaboration between SACEP and the joint WHO/FAO/UNEP Panel of Experts on Environmental Management for Vector Control in the implementation of a study on the nature and magnitude of vector-borne disease implications of water resource development projects in Sri Lanka. The outcome of this study indicated the risks of increased malaria and Japanese encephalitis transmission in newly irrigated zones, and the risk of a spread of the transmission of lymphatic filariasis is beyond the traditional southwestern coastal belt to these zones. Its results serve as a witness that intersectoral collaboration in planning procedures and design still need further improvement in order to prevent adverse vector-borne disease impacts of irrigation development. It is hoped that SACEP will be able to promote similar studies in the Programme's Member States in South Asia. It is also hoped that, whenever modernization and rehabilitation of irrigation schemes is being considered, government officials will give due attention to the incorporation of environmental management measures as a cost-effective means to combat vector-borne disease transmission.

This year the World Health Organization celebrates its fortieth anniversary. This celebration marks four decades of international efforts towards reaching the Organization's objective, the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. While the Constitution of WHO defines twenty-two functions for the Organization to achieve this objective, it is perhaps appropriate to cite one particular function in this meeting:

"The Organization shall promote, in co-operation with other specialized agencies where necessary, the improvement of nutrition, housing, sanitation, recreation, economic or working conditions and other aspects of environmental hygiene".

The need for individuals and communities to live in equilibrium with their environment, and to contribute to maintaining this equilibrium and the ensuing favourable conditions for human health, was reaffirmed at the Alma Ata Conference, ten years ago, where the Organization embarked on the strategy of Health for All by the year 2000.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I should like to thank you for this opportunity to address the Council meeting, and I wish you successful deliberations.



## **RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

### **PREAMBLE**

The members of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme in pursuance of the Colombo Declaration on the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme adopted by them at the Meeting of Ministers held at Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 23-25 February 1981 do hereby agree upon and adopt these rules and regulations for the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, hereinafter referred to as SACEP.

### **SACEP PROCEDURE**

1. The Director shall prepare the Minutes of every Consultative Committee Meeting of SACEP. The Minutes of a meeting shall be circulated within 7 days and shall be placed before the Consultative Committee Members for consideration and adoption at the next meeting.

### **FINANCIAL RULES**

2. The Director may exceed the authorised expenditure on any main head of the annual budget by not more than 10 percent of the original total under that head, subject to off-setting savings being made elsewhere in the budget.
3. Except in relation to the entertainment allowance for the international officers (Rule 25), transfers between any subheads under a main head of the budget shall be permitted on the authority of the Director, providing that any such transfers do not involve changes which are the prerogative of the Governing Council/Consultative Committee Members.
4. A reserve in cash or suitable securities of Sri Lankan Rs. 500,000 will be retained as working capital. Withdrawals from the reserve to meet current expenditure shall be replaced at the first opportunity. This reserve will be included under the head "Cash" in the annual balance sheet.
5. The Director may, after the concurrence of the Consultative Committee borrow from the present Bankers of the SACEP Secretariat DEUTSCHE BANK (AG), 86 Galle Road Colombo 3, SRI LANKA, if SACEP funds including the reserve are nearing exhaustion, and temporary accommodation is necessary to meet current expenditure approved by SACEP.
6. Before any expenditure is incurred, covering authority shall be obtained from the Consultative Committee Members where questions requiring a Consultative Committee decision are involved, and from the Director, or in his absence the officer authorised to act for him in all other cases, except that the Director may at his discretion delegate to an officer or officers of the Secretariat authority to authorise specified categories of expenditure within his competence.
7. After retaining a sufficient amount in the Bank Account to meet current and anticipated expenditure, the Director in consultation with the Consultative Committee Members will invest the balance in the best possible manner.
8. Cheques on the bank accounts of SACEP require the signatures of the Director and Administrative Assistant of SACEP.
9. The Director may authorise the writing off of the value of any equipment which may have been lost or damaged and the total cost of which does not exceed Sri Lankan Rs. 1,000/-. The Consultative Committee Members' approval is necessary for the writing off of any sum exceeding Sri Lankan Rs. 1,000/-.
10. A quarterly statement of Accounts will have to be furnished to the Consultative Committee. This statement should include a statement of income and expenditure for the quarter, a balance sheet and a statement of debtors and creditors.



11. The Consultative Committee of SACEP would have to approve the Budget of the SACEP Secretariat for the ensuing year, during the last quarter of each Financial Year.
12. As provided in the Articles of Association, the accounts of SACEP Secretariat will be subject to an annual audit.
13. A firm of Auditors will be appointed by the Consultative Committee and this appointment would be reviewed once a year with the provision to reappoint the same auditor if it be necessary.
14. The Terms of Reference of the Audit shall be determined by the Consultative Committee and it would be necessary for the Auditor to report directly to the Consultative Committee.
15. The payment of the annual fee to the Auditor should be determined by the Consultative Committee.

#### **TERMS OF SERVICE FOR INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS**

##### **16. Terms of Service**

- (a) An officer's appointment shall date from the day on which he leaves his last duty station to come to Colombo, and his salary (including overseas allowance, if any) is payable from that date, provided that salary is not payable for any periods of leave taken in the course of his journey to Colombo.
- (b) The approved term of service as laid down in the Articles of Association will be deemed to commence from the date of the officer's departure from his last duty station or normal place of residence to come to Colombo and will exclude travel time on transfer from Colombo and any accumulated leave taken at the end of his term of service.
- (c) The terms of office of the Director and his successor may overlap for a period not exceeding two weeks plus travel time and accumulated leave: similarly the terms of office of the other international officers may overlap for a period not exceeding one week plus travel time and accumulated leave. To provide for periods of overlap or to enable the change-over to take place at the most suitable time of year, the Governing Council Consultative Committee may make small extensions to the terms of contract of the officers concerned subject to the provisions of Article 7 of the Articles of Association.

##### **17. Resignation**

If an officer is withdrawn by his Government or resigns, three months written notice shall ordinarily be given to the Director/Secretariat. The Director may, however, accept resignation on shorter notice. For an officer who stays less than the term of his original contract, or of his extended contract if he has taken advantage of the provision for home leave (Rule 31) payment of the costs of return travel to the officer's normal place of residence shall be at the discretion of the Director.

##### **18. Transport of Officer and Family**

- (a) The SACEP will pay the cost of economy class air passage or the equivalent by any other means of transport, to Colombo from his normal place of residence or last duty station and back to his normal place of residence for an officer, the spouse and dependent children (including step-children and legally adopted children.) The term "dependent children" covers those who are under the age of 21 on first arrival in Sri Lanka and unmarried, and who, it is intended, will reside in Sri Lanka during the officer's term of duty. A son or daughter of 21 years of age and above may also be considered a dependent for travel purposes, if physically disabled or mentally retarded.
- (b) In the case of a dependent child receiving full-time education outside Sri Lanka, the Secretariat will pay the cost of economy class return air fare between the officer's normal place of residence and Colombo once in every twelve months except in the twelve-month period in which the officer has home leave.

##### **19. Shipment of Car**

The Secretariat will pay the cost of shipment of an officer's car from his normal place of residence or last duty station to Colombo and back to his normal place of residence.

## **20. Removal Allowance**

On the officer's first appointment and on his return to his normal place of residence, the Secretariat will pay actual removal expenses for household and personal effects up to a maximum stated below by the most economical means of transportation:

Air baggage accompanied :	66 lbs/person
Air Freight :	100 lbs/person
Surface Freight :	3,500 lbs/family
(300 cu. ft. or 8.50 metres)	

## **21. Salary**

(a) Salaries are inclusive of all allowances except Higher Duties Allowance, Travel Allowance, Entertainment Allowance, Medical Expenses and Furnished Living Accommodation Allowance and any other allowance that may be approved by the Secretariat. Salaries are converted to Sri Lanka currency at the official buying rate of the rupee. An officer may remit from Sri Lanka amounts up to the total of his salary as permitted by the Sri Lanka foreign exchange authorities.

(b) The salaries and allowances of international officers are determined on the assumption that they will not be subject to taxation, but the Secretariat has no responsibility on account of any taxation that may, in spite of this assumption, be levied on such officers by their national Governments. By agreement with the Government of Sri Lanka, the salaries and allowances of international officers from countries other than Sri Lanka are exempt from Sri Lanka income tax.

## **22. Higher Duties Allowances**

On the recommendation of the Director, or, in his absence, the Consultative Committee may authorise a higher duty allowance to be paid to an officer taking over the full responsibility of a more senior officer, provided he performed that duty for a period of not less than eight consecutive weeks. Such allowance shall be retroactive over the qualifying eight-week period.

## **23. Travel Allowance**

When absent from Colombo on official visits, the officer will receive, in addition to his salary, the daily subsistence allowance applicable to staff members in the Director and Principal Officer category of the United Nations for each country visited, as set from time to time in administrative instructions from the Director. In cases where the officer concerned does not find the per diem rate high enough to cover his reasonable expenses, he may claim actual expenses supported by vouchers. Officers are expected to travel in such a way as to economise time and expense, long distance travel will generally be by air, economy class.

## **24. Personal Accident Insurance**

International officers will be provided with insurance cover for capital sums of pounds sterling 10,000 each against personal accidents during their terms of office.

## **25. Entertainment Allowance**

International officers shall be entitled to be reimbursed in respect of expenditure incurred on entertainment in pursuance of their official representational functions as approved by the Director. Such expenditure shall not in the total for all these officers exceed the sum set aside for this purpose in the annual budget.

## **26. Furnished Living Accommodation**

The Secretariat will pay a reasonable rent for furnished living accommodation occupied by International officers. The amount considered to be reasonable will be fixed from time to time by the Secretariat on the recommendation of the Director. Any balance above that amount will be paid by the officer concerned.

## **27. Medical and Hospital Charges**

(a) Medical expenses payable by an officer and his family, supported by vouchers, will be borne by the Secretariat up to a limit of Sri Lankan Rs. 4,000 per year of service (and pro rata for fractions of a year) and if this allowance is not used in full, an entitlement not exceeding Sri Lankan Rs. 8,000 may be

carried over into any following year. All payments will be subject to the provisions of Rule 41. An officer, may however, utilise his medical allowance to take out a surgical and hospital expenses, insurance policy, providing cover for himself and his family and draw on the unspent balance for medical expenses on submission of bills.

- (b) This annual limit of Rs. 4,000 maybe raised to a maximum of Sri Lankan Rs. 6,000 for medical, hospital and surgical care rendered to International officers outside Sri Lanka but not on official business, or to their spouses or dependent children when outside Sri Lanka, subject to the provisions of Rule 41.
- (c) Notwithstanding the above provisions, where the officer is outside Sri Lanka on official business, actual expenses in respect of emergency medical treatment may be met from official funds at the discretion of the Director.

#### **28. Annual Leave**

- (a) An officer is entitled to annual leave of 25 working days per annum (based on a working week of five days) during the terms of his appointment, and this may be taken either in or outside Sri Lanka. Leave shall be earned from the date of first appointment (Rule 16). Leave for any period of service amounting to less than one complete year will be pro rata.
- (b) Officers will normally be expected to take a reasonable part of their leave in the year in which it becomes due, but, with the permission of the Director, leave maybe accumulated for periods of service up to three years.

#### **29. Casual Leave**

Casual leave may be granted up to fourteen working days per annum; unused casual leave lapses at the end of each calendar year.

#### **30. Sick Leave**

There is no special provision for sick leave. The Secretariat may make an ad hoc decision in any case where an officer is sick and has exhausted his leave entitlement.

#### **31. Home Leave**

Home leave may be granted after completion of three years of service with the Secretariat to the Director or an officer nominated by a country other than Sri Lanka, provided that he spends a substantial part of his leave in that country, and subject to his assurance in writing that he intends to serve the full term on his contract. The Secretariat will pay the cost of return passages (economy class for air travel or the equivalent by other means of transport) for the officer, the spouse, and dependent children as defined in Rule 18 (a) by the most direct route to the country by which he was nominated.

Except for travel time not exceeding five days each way, the leave involved shall be charged to annual leave. Daily subsistence allowance shall not be paid for journeys on home leave.

#### **32. Customs Privileges**

- (a) By arrangement with the Government of Sri Lanka, the Director is entitled to privileges as contained in Sections 19, 20 and 21 of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Specialised Agencies of the United Nations. Other officers have the privilege of bringing their possessions duty free into Sri Lanka on first entry and of removing them from Sri Lanka on termination of their appointment. They have the privileges extended under Section 19 and 20 of the Convention. "First Entry" is interpreted as including the first six months of their stay for the purpose of importing such durable goods as automobiles and refrigerators, on the understanding that only one of each such article is brought by each officer.
- (b) Items brought to the country duty free should not be sold to private parties but handed over to the Government Supplies Department on Government valuation.

## **TERMS OF SERVICE OF LOCALLY RECRUITED PERSONNEL**

33. (a) Appointments of locally recruited personnel are made by the Director, based on a scheme of recruitment approved by the Consultative Committee and SACEP, who also determines the salaries payable, with due regard to prevailing rates for the job and other relevant factors, and whether personnel are classed as officers or as other staff.

(b) The Consultative Committee would from time to time approve the cadres.

### **34. Duties and Obligations**

By accepting appointment in SACEP, locally recruited officers and other staff pledge themselves to discharge their functions and to regulate their conduct with the interests of SACEP only in view. They shall exercise the utmost discretion in regard to all matters of official business. They shall neither seek nor accept instructions or advice from any authority external to SACEP. They shall not communicate to any unauthorised person or outside organisation any information known to them by reason of their official position which has not been made public except in the course of their official duties as determined by the Director, nor shall they at any time use such information to private advantage. No officer or other staff member shall be actively associated with the management of, or hold a financial interest in, any business concern if it were possible for him to benefit from such association or financial interest by reason of his position in SACEP. An officer or staff member becoming a candidate for any public office of a political character shall resign from SACEP. Officers and staff members shall abstain from political activity normally considered by the Government of Sri Lanka to be incompatible with the rules for comparable employees in the Sri Lanka public service.

### **35. Terms of Appointment**

Appointments of locally recruited personnel may be terminated at three month's notice on either side in the case of officers and one month's notice on either side in the case of other staff.

### **36. Medical and Hospital Charges**

(a) Medical expenses payable by a locally recruited member of the staff and his family supported by vouchers, will be borne by SACEP up to a limit of Sri Lankan Rs. 3,600 per year of service (and pro rata for fractions of a year) and if this allowance is not used in full, an entitlement not exceeding Sri Lankan Rs. 7,200 may be carried forward into any following year. All payments will be subject to the provisions of Rule 41. A staff member may, however, utilise his medical allowance to take out a surgical and hospital expenses Insurance policy providing cover for himself and his family, and draw on the unspent balance for medical expenses on submission of bills.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) where the officer is outside Sri Lanka on official business, actual expenses in respect of emergency medical treatment may be met from official funds at the discretion of the Director.

### **37. Travel Allowance for Locally Recruited Officers**

The conditions of travel and subsistence allowance applying to locally recruited officers to travel outside Colombo on official business will be similar to those set out in Rule 23. Locally recruited officers will each be provided with air trip insurance cover for capital sums of pounds sterling 10,000.

### **38. Travel Allowance for other Locally Recruited Staff**

Other members of the locally recruited staff required to travel outside Colombo on official business will receive:

- (a) an allowance to cover the cost of board and lodging laundry and incidental expenses as approved by the Director;
- (b) if transport is not provided, actual taxi fare from hotel to the place of work and back, subject to any conditions the Director may prescribe;

- (c) transport by the most economical means from Colombo to the destination and back (including the cost of air trip insurance for coverage of pounds sterling 10,000).

#### **39. Leave Provisions**

##### **(a) Annual Leave**

Locally recruited officers and other staff may be granted annual leave up to a maximum of twenty-five working days per annum which maybe taken in or outside Sri Lanka. Annual leave will only be granted after completion of one year of continuous service. It will be credited in any calendar year only at the rate actually earned which shall be at the rate of two days per month for eleven months and three days for December.

##### **(b) Casual Leave**

Casual leave up to a maximum of fourteen working days per annum maybe granted at the discretion of the Director. Unused casual leave cannot be carried over as entitlement from one calendar year to the next.

##### **(c) Sick Leave**

Absence due to sickness will be debited to casual and, if necessary annual leave. For this reason locally recruited employees are required to accumulate and keep in reserve fifteen days annual leave. The Director may, at his discretion, grant a short extension of sick leave either as a debit against future leave or without pay or at half pay.

##### **(d) Accumulated Annual Leave**

Locally recruited employees may, with the permission of the Director, accumulate annual leave up to a maximum of one hundred and fifty working days. On leaving the service of SACEP they shall be paid a cash equivalent of their accumulated annual leave.

#### **40. Provident Fund**

Locally recruited personnel are eligible for membership in the SACEP's Provident Fund set up for the purpose of providing a lump sum payment to locally recruited staff upon termination of their contract with the SACEP. The contribution of a member shall be 10 percent of his gross monthly salary, while the SACEP shall contribute a sum equal to 15 percent of such member's gross monthly salary.

#### **41. GENERAL**

Claims for reimbursements and allowances as provided under these Rules will be considered only if they are presented to the authorising officer within a period of three months of the entitlements maturing or, in cases where the authorising authority is the SACEP, within six months.

#### **42. Hours of Work**

The Director shall determine the working hours and the working week of the Secretariat taking into consideration the prevailing local conditions.

#### **43. Official Holidays**

The holidays observed will be week-ends and all public holidays declared by the Government of Sri Lanka. However, the Director may at his discretion grant additional holidays to mark special events during the course of the year.