

ACC/1986/PG/13  
31 October 1986

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Committee  
on

ENGLISH ONLY

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON SUBSTANTIVE  
QUESTIONS (PROGRAMME MATTERS)  
Second regular session of 1986  
6-8 October 1986  
Item 5 (e) of the provisional agenda\*

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REPORT OF THE ACC INTERSECRETARIAT GROUP FOR WATER RESOURCES  
ON ITS SEVENTH SESSION

(Headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization,  
Geneva, 8-12 September 1986)

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I. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
ON SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS (PROGRAMME MATTERS)

A. Issues arising from the first regular session of 1986 of the  
Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme  
Matters) and from the Organizational Committee of ACC  
(agenda item 3)

1. The Group had before it document ACC/ISGW/1986/3, which presented the issues arising from the first regular session of 1986 of CCSQ (PROG) and from the meeting of the Organizational Committee of ACC held at Geneva on 26 and 27 June and 3 July 1986. In particular, the report drew attention to the schedule of meetings of the ACC subsidiary bodies, to issues concerning the review of the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa, and to the implementation of the decisions of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985).

2. With regard to the scheduling of meetings, the participants were informed of the conclusion by the Organizational Committee that, to the extent possible and particularly taking into account the work cycle of intergovernmental bodies relevant to their work, subsidiary bodies of ACC should examine the possibility of holding biennial meetings. The members of the Group were of the opinion that, in view of the various tasks of a continuous nature entrusted to it, such as the harmonization of efforts with regard to regular and field project activities, including environmental aspects of water resources development, and the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, and more so in view of the implications of the Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990, and other recent developments, it would be desirable to hold meetings of the Group, at least for the time being, on an annual basis. It was recognized, however, that every effort should be made to schedule the sessions of the Group to coincide with other events that bring together many of the representatives of the organizations concerned, thereby observing a maximum economy in travel funds. In view of the fact that the tenth session of the Committee on Natural Resources, to be held in April 1987, will focus primarily on water, it is expected that a number of organizations and regional commissions will be represented at that session of the Committee. Accordingly, the Group recommends that its eighth session be held in New York at the time of the Committee's session. Ensuing sessions of the Group would as far as possible be combined with events that bring together a sizeable number of organizations concerned, such as the session of the Steering Committee for Co-operative Action for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade.

3. With regard to the follow-up to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985), the members of the Group noted that the role of women in water resources development and utilization was an issue of major concern to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. In fact, one of the task forces of the Steering Committee is devoted to this issue. As illustrated by the training modules prepared by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement

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of Women (INSTRAW), in co-operation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Turin Centre, the question of women's participation is of considerable importance for all aspects of water resources, including agriculture, operation and maintenance of water resources projects, human resources development, and water resources management. It was agreed, therefore, that the question of women's participation should be considered during the deliberations of the items on the Group's agenda in current and future sessions, without precluding the possibility of it being a separate agenda item for the consideration of specific issues when the need arises.

4. With regard to the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa, it was noted that the question of the water situation in Africa, which was already on the agenda of the Group, would enable it to deal with water-related issues stemming from the special session of the General Assembly and from other significant sources. The Group recommended that the item remain on the agenda of subsequent meetings of the Group, in order to continue to promote concerted action among the organizations concerned. Further proposals for action on this issue were made under agenda item 4.

**B. Substantive and technical issues for discussion by the Group**  
**(agenda item 4)**

**1. Regional issues: the water situation in Africa**  
**(agenda item 4 (a))**

5. At its sixth session, the Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources agreed that at its seventh session the Group would concern itself with problems related to the development of water resources in Africa. The discussions of the Group at its seventh session took place within the framework of the pertinent decisions and recommendations stemming from the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990, adopted on 1 June 1986 by the General Assembly at its thirteenth special session, as well as from decisions and recommendations stemming from the first African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held at Cairo from 16 to 18 December 1985, the Consultation on Irrigation in Africa, sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), held at Lomé from 21 to 25 April 1986, and the Regional Meeting on Socio-Economic and Policy Aspects of Water Resources Management in Africa, convened by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at Addis Ababa from 2 to 6 June 1986. The participants expressed their dismay that ECA was again unable to participate at the session of the Group, which prevented a meaningful discussion of the role that ECA could be called upon to play as a focal point for increased system-wide efforts in the region.

6. The various organizations informed the Group of their ongoing activities in Africa. In this context, the question of training, in particular, was identified as a critical issue in Africa, one in which each organization needed to intensify its efforts individually and collectively.

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7. The participants agreed that there was also a need for increasing the awareness by technical specialists and policy makers in Africa of the nature and scope of the activities of the system of organizations. In this regard it was agreed that an information note would be prepared and distributed widely through the various Governments in the African region and member organizations of the Group, on the basis of an outline prepared for this purpose. The Group endorsed the offer of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to prepare the note and to arrange for its translation and wide dissemination. A first version of the note will be completed by the end of the year and distributed for comments to all organizations concerned prior to its being finalized. The members of the Group agreed to supply UNICEF with relevant material, in particular directories of services and institutions within their terms of reference active in the region.

8. The members agreed on the need to achieve better co-ordination of efforts concerning technical co-operation activities, both in terms of work of the organizations of the system themselves, and of the work of various national ministries and departments dealing with water resources. To this effect it was agreed that it would be desirable to collect, process and disseminate information concerning water-related projects executed by the organizations of the system from the various sources of financing in order to determine what type of work each of the projects carried out, and which national organization acted as counterpart to the execution of the project. This type of information could be useful to the Governments themselves, the resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the executing agencies concerned. It was proposed to initiate a pilot information activity on a limited basis for the countries of the Zambezi basin (Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe), and those of the Niger River basin (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Nigeria). The results would be assessed with a view to the extension of the activity to the entire continent. It was agreed to submit to the secretariat of the Group by December 1986 data prepared on the basis of a fact sheet agreed during the meeting. The data would cover ongoing projects as well as projects completed since January 1985.

9. The Group observed that the issues of operation and maintenance and cost recovery were some of the most, if not the most, critical faced by the region. In fact, it was agreed that they were equally serious issues in other developing regions. It was decided, therefore, that the question of operation and maintenance, as it pertains to developing countries in general, would be further discussed at the eighth session of the Group. To this effect, ILO agreed to prepare a paper as a basis for discussion, based on contributions from FAO following an expert consultation on the subject of water charges in irrigated agriculture scheduled for September 1986, as well as on input from UNICEF, INSTRAW, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Bank.

10. Finally, it was noted that a number of organizations held various meetings in the region which were geared to diverse audiences even though some of the overall concerns were similar. It was considered that not only was there a need for each organization to be better informed concerning the various upcoming meetings, but

that in addition there was a need for a synthesis of the conclusions of meetings so that ensuing ones could be aware of those results and build upon them. It was noted that ECA might be called upon to play a useful role as a clearing house for such information, and provide the kind of synthesis needed. For this purpose organizations would keep ECA informed of their upcoming meetings well ahead of time, and of the results of the meetings.

2. Education and training in water resources (agenda item 4 (b))

11. The Group had before it a first draft of the review of national manpower studies in the water resources sector prepared by a consultant in accordance with the Group's decision at its sixth session.

12. The consultant, whose work was financed by FAO, UNESCO and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, visited the Europe-based agencies in the summer of 1986. His terms of reference as decided upon by the Group at its sixth session were to study available human resources surveys executed since 1975 and to review the methodological approaches and evaluate their relative merits as policy-making tools for the development of education and training programmes, in the context of sectoral human resources development on a national scale. Twenty-two reports were reviewed, of which only 11 included a quantification of human resources.

13. Many members of the Group found that the preliminary report emphasized too heavily the deficiencies in the studies reviewed. Some members questioned whether it was practically possible or useful to execute human resources development assessments at the national level for all the water subsectors simultaneously. In this respect the representative of ILO informed the Group about his organization's experiences in the energy sector and the representatives of FAO and WHO about theirs in the field of irrigation, water supply and sanitation respectively.

14. In general, the Group agreed that, while total comprehensiveness can never be obtained, the approach of subsectoral human resources studies should take into account relevant factors in other subsectors.

15. The Group decided, and the consultant agreed, that the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the report should be rewritten to reflect in the report all material and information he was provided with, together with the comments of the Group, and that in addition an outline should be prepared of the parameters (essential components) which any assessment study of human resources development in any water (sub) section should include. This outline might be used in a case study in a developing country.

16. The Group requested each organization to provide any additional relevant information to UNESCO before the end of October 1986 to allow the consultant to prepare a revised version of his report by the end of 1986. The Group decided to review it by correspondence, and to take up the matter again at its eighth session.

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C. Date and place of the eighth session of the Group and selection of candidate as Chairman of the session (agenda item 8)

17. The Group recommends that its eighth session be held in New York, at the time of the tenth session of the Committee on Natural Resources, in April 1987. The Group would accept the offer of UNICEF to serve as host to the session. The Group further recommends that Martin Beyer (UNICEF) be Chairman of the session.

II. CONCLUSIONS REACHED AND SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS ON OTHER MATTERS

A. Substantive and technical issues for discussion by the Group: the role of non-governmental organizations in water resources (agenda item 4 (c))

18. At its sixth session, the Group agreed that information on activities of non-governmental organizations available to its members would be assembled for review at its seventh session. Owing to insufficiency of information submitted to the secretariat, a compendium of such information was not prepared.

19. The members of the Group exchanged views and information concerning their experiences and relationships with non-governmental organizations. In particular it was noted that they play an important role in financing the implementation of activities at the national level in the field of water supply and sanitation and small-scale irrigation. It was pointed out that there were cases in which there was a lack of co-ordination among non-governmental organizations themselves, which at times had led to duplication and proliferation of activities in the same field. It was noted that when certain non-governmental organizations held international conferences they did at times invite organizations of the United Nations system to participate. In some cases it was proposed that a special session be reserved for the organizations to make presentations about their activities. Because of the varying degree and nature of the involvement of each organization with specific non-governmental organizations, it was not usually possible to have a concerted system-wide response to such invitations, and it was agreed that it was better for each organization to respond individually in accordance with its own involvement.

20. Members of the Group were invited to provide the secretariat with information concerning their activities and experiences with non-governmental organizations for inclusion in future issues of the information note.

B. Co-ordination and co-operation in the implementation of regular programmes and field activities (agenda item 5)

1. Interregional symposium on improved efficiency in the management of water resources (agenda item 5 (a))

21. The representative of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat reported on arrangements for the United Nations-sponsored Symposium on Improved Efficiency in the Management of Water Resources, to be held at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 9 January 1987.

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22. He recalled that United Nations organizations had received detailed outlines for the principal agenda items and invitations to contribute material and participate at the meeting. Two of the background documents were made available to the meeting in draft form. He pointed out the current status of participation which included developing and developed country representation and participants from international financial organizations, bilateral aid agencies, selected non-governmental organizations, and organizations of the United Nations system. The representative indicated that the mechanics for the meeting would probably entail the convening of working groups under each agenda item to facilitate discussion, with conclusions stemming from the summary reports to be presented by the chairman of each working group in plenary session after each working group meeting. The arrangements for the operation of the symposium would in any case be explained in an information note to be issued before the end of November and sent to all participants. United Nations organizations were encouraged to submit information documents to the meeting under one or more agenda items.

2. Matters pertaining to the WMO/UNESCO International Conference on Hydrology and the Scientific Bases of Water Resources Management (agenda item 5 (b))

23. The representatives of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNESCO informed the Group of preparations for the third UNESCO/WMO International Conference on Hydrology and the Scientific Bases of Water Resources Management, to be held at Geneva from 16 to 21 March 1987. Letters were therefore sent in late July/early August to all agencies represented at the Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources, inviting the agencies to send representatives to the Conference and to submit reports on their activities under the agenda item which had been specifically included for the purpose.

24. The attention of the Group was drawn to the fact that the date of the Conference coincided precisely with the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Water Conference. WMO and UNESCO would therefore be reporting to the Conference on the contributions they had made to the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan. Agencies were encouraged to do likewise in their reports to the Conference, and the representative of WMO reiterated his organization's offer to reproduce copies of the reports submitted by other agencies for distribution at the Conference, provided they were received by 15 December 1986.

3. Issues pertaining to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (agenda item 5 (c))

25. The mid-Decade has been marked by reviews of progress by the Committee on Natural Resources, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, as well as by the thirty-ninth session of the World Health Assembly. The latter review, among its main conclusions, ascribed the highest priorities to the improvement of institutional programmes at the country level and the enhancement of operation and maintenance of systems. The General Assembly and the World Health Assembly further adopted a resolution containing recommendations to Governments, the external support community and the United Nations itself.

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26. Those reviews showed that there had been progress despite clear constraints to development, including insufficient funding, lack of sufficient and adequately trained personnel and inappropriate institutional arrangements.

27. The discussions held at the 14th meeting of the inter-agency Steering Committee for Co-operative Action for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, which was serviced by WHO and which met on 4 and 5 September 1986 at WMO headquarters, were against this background.

28. It was also agreed that the co-ordination achievements at the global level among the United Nations agencies, and between them and the bilateral development support community, had to be strengthened at the country level, with the role of UNDP resident representatives as Decade focal points for external programme input being given maximum support by all agencies. It was also proposed that this co-ordinating function could be extended to cover other water resources management activities; particular reference was made to the Zambezi River basin management programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

29. It was agreed that a study should be made of the wealth of appropriate technology training material produced by the United Nations and other international agencies and institutions, so that guidance could be provided to potential users on the selection and application of material.

30. The Steering Committee endorsed the value of regional consultations on the Decade, organized in co-operation with the appropriate regional development banks, and country consultative meetings, held in Lesotho, Nepal and Peru, and emphasized the particular importance of the presentation of valid national water supply and sanitation plans, which were integral components of the overall national development plans and which the participating external support agencies agreed to accept as the basis for their co-ordinated support.

31. The value of co-ordinated public information for promotion of the Decade was emphasized and the Group was informed that the Governing Council of UNDP had allocated an additional \$350,000 for this purpose.

32. The representative of WHO informed the meeting of the progress made, with support from UNDP, in preparing a "Decade Bibliography" and a "Decade Expressions List" to present the main documentation and publications relevant to the Decade and to standardize the definitions of commonly used expressions.

33. It was noted that several agencies were including the Decade in some of their other ongoing programmes and the development was welcome: for example the Special Public Works Programmes of ILO, the Small-Scale Irrigation Programmes in Africa of FAO, and the human resources development activities of UNESCO.

34. The 15th meeting of the Steering Committee will be held at INSTRAW headquarters, Santo Domingo, in early November 1987.

4. Review of regular programme activities and main issues related to the implementation of these programmes (agenda item 5 (d))

35. Members of the Group exchanged information and views concerning their regular programme activities. They agreed that the information on the regular programme of the organizations, contained in document ACC/ISGW/1986/5, was useful as a basis for discussion, even though the format and level of detail of the information varied from one organization to the other. In the case of those organizations whose activities in water resources were tightly integrated in other programmes, it would be useful if they could provide in concise form to the Group information on the specific water component of their programme.

5. Issues pertaining to the environmental aspects of water resources (agenda item 5 (e))

36. The representative of UNEP informed the Group on (a) the progress made since the sixth session of the Group in the preparation of the Zambezi Action Plan (ZACPLAN) as a first step towards the implementation of the Environmental Management of Inland Waters (EMINWA) Programme, and the future plan for its preparation; (b) the follow-up to the water-related decisions and recommendations from the first African Ministerial Conference on the Environment; and (c) the preparation of the water part of the UNEP system-wide medium-term environment plan (SWMTEP) for 1988-1989 and SWMTEP II (1990-1995).

37. The Group had before it a letter of 29 August 1986 from the Assistant Executive Director of UNEP to the organizations of the United Nations system, inviting them to the inter-agency meeting on ZACPLAN to be held at Geneva on 26 September 1986;\* a UNEP report on further development and implementation of the Zambezi Action Plan; the revised draft Action Plan for the Environmental Management of the Common Zambezi River System; and the conclusions and recommendations of the revised draft Diagnostic Study on the Present State of the Ecology and the Environmental Management of the Common Zambezi River System. The organizations forming the Group had previously received the report of the Second Meeting of the Working Group of Experts on the Zambezi River System, held at Lusaka, Zambia, in March 1986, as well as the report of the first African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

38. The Group noted the progress achieved in the preparation of ZACPLAN. The interested agencies will provide further information on their activities in the Zambezi basin (see agenda item 4 (a)), as well as their suggestions for the draft Action Plan, either by correspondence to UNEP or during the forthcoming meetings, including the third meeting of the Working Group of Experts on the Zambezi River System, to be held in Botswana in November 1986. The Group expressed its interest

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\* At the time of the adoption of the report, the representative of UNEP informed the Group that the inter-agency meeting was cancelled.

in reviewing the revised draft ZACPLAN and discussing in detail its technical, financial and institutional issues at the forthcoming inter-agency meeting prior to the donors meeting on financing environmental programmes of developing countries. It was noted, however, that some of the agencies, especially those that are not located in Europe, had difficulty in being represented owing to lack of travel funds. The Group recommended that, taking into account the interests of agencies in this activity and the constraints of travel funds, further preparatory meetings of ZACPLAN be organized, as far as possible, in connection with other relevant water meetings in and/or on Africa, and that UNEP examine the possibility of supporting the participation of representatives from some interested agencies in the further preparatory meetings of ZACPLAN.

39. The Group noted that the following three main follow-up activities of the first African Ministerial Conference on the Environment related to water resources: (a) establishment and operation of the River and Lake Basins Conference Committee; (b) establishment and operation of the African Network on Water Resources; and (c) more than 50 per cent of the identified priority subregional activities, and expressed its interest in being kept informed on the activities of the Conference and its secretariat for possible assistance in the implementation of those activities. This should be done taking into account the ongoing activities and work plans of the interested organizations. In relation to priority subregional activities on water resources, the interested organizations will examine, in co-operation with the Conference secretariat, how they can promote the implementation of those activities. This issue will be discussed at the eighth session of the Group. In relation to the Network on Water Resources, the Group agreed with the approach suggested by the secretariat that the existing networks on water resources should be utilized for this purpose, especially those of UNESCO and WMO.

40. The Group noted that the water part of SWMTEP 1988-1989 and SWMTEP II were in preparation in accordance with the work plan decided by the Designated Officials for Environmental Matters. With regard to the water activities of UNEP and their relation to the work of other organizations, and in accordance with the UNEP target for 1992, SWMTEP 1988-1989 would contain: (a) the implementation of the EMINWA Programme (implementation of ZACPLAN), preparation and approval of the Lake Tanganyika Action Plan and preparation of a third action plan, establishment of a training network on environmentally sound water resources management in the developing countries and training of professionals to implement inland water system action plans, preparation of a manual on principles and guidelines on environmentally sound water resources management; (b) contribution to the implementation of the decisions of the first African Ministerial Conference on the Environment; and (c) promotion of waste-water reuse. The Group expressed its readiness to review and amend, as appropriate, with respect to activities of each agency concerned, the water part of these documents by correspondence and to discuss them at the eighth session of the Group in accordance with the overall work plan of the preparation of the SWMTEP documents.

6. Issues concerning technical co-operation activities  
(agenda item 5 (f))

41. The members of the Group exchanged views concerning technical co-operation activities on the basis of a document which, in addition to presenting information concerning recently approved projects and projects in the pipeline, gave an analysis by executing agency of yearly disbursements in UNDP-financed projects from 1973 to 1985. The Group found this document, together with an accompanying list of such projects, to be very informative and well prepared, and expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for its efforts in carrying out this work.

42. The Group noted that the work being carried out with regard to the collection and processing of information on projects executed in the riparian countries of the Zambezi and Niger River basins had wider implications with regard to co-ordination and co-operation of technical co-operation projects and that, in time, the exercise would be expanded on the basis of the experience gained with this initial group of countries.

C. Reports to the Committee on Natural Resources  
(agenda item 6)

43. The Group had before it a first draft of the report to the tenth session of the Committee on Natural Resources on the follow-up by Governments to the Mar del Plata Action Plan (ACC/ISGW/1986/7). The representative of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs pointed out that, for lack of input, the report was lacking a section on floods and droughts and needed strengthening with regard to the section concerning management and legislation, as well as on the environment. It was also pointed out that a part on women's participation was being prepared in co-operation with UNDP, and that revisions to the draft section on drinking water supply and sanitation were being undertaken in consultation with WHO. It was agreed that members of the Group would send additional input and comments no later than the end of October 1986.

44. With regard to the report on the flow of financing to be prepared for the Committee on Natural Resources, the Group examined with interest a set of statistical tables on financing of water resources projects by the United Nations system of organizations. The representative of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs pointed out that the analysis of this information would now be started, and that input and comments from the various organizations concerned would be welcomed. It was agreed that such input and comments would be sent no later than the end of October 1986.

45. With regard to the report on co-ordination to be prepared for the tenth session of the Committee, the representative of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs recalled that, at the sixth session of the Group, the organizations had agreed to submit contributions updating relevant parts of the report of the Secretary-General on present and future activities of the United Nations system in water resources development (E/C.7/120) and the report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination and co-operation in water resources development

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(E/C.7/1985/10), which had been submitted to the Committee at its seventh and ninth sessions, respectively. No draft of the report to the tenth session has been prepared so far because of a lack of input from most of the organizations concerned. It was agreed that the next report, which, as requested by the Committee, is supposed to be an update of the report to the ninth session, would emphasize co-ordination efforts with regard to the water situation in Africa, in the context of the special session of the General Assembly, and of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

46. The representative of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development informed the Group about the preparation of its report to the Committee on the use of microcomputers in the field of natural resources, and provided an outline of the report. He noted that the discussion on water would be only a part of the document that would also include mineral and energy resources. He circulated for information a final draft of a publication, to be issued shortly, on the use of microcomputers in the water resources sector.

47. The Group expressed regret at the fact that it did not have an opportunity to review a draft of the report being prepared by ECA on the drought-stricken countries of Africa.

D. Other matters (agenda item 7)

48. With a view to facilitating the exchange of information among the various member organizations of the Group, the secretariat was requested to circulate a questionnaire to determine the type of word-processing facilities available in each organization, so as to determine its compatibility for exchange of material to be printed. The secretariat was also requested to circulate an up-to-date mailing list of the representatives to the Group of the organizations concerned. The Group agreed to re-establish the practice of exchanging published documents at the time of publication.

49. The representative of WMO briefed the participants on the latest developments in the planning activities under the World Climate Programme-Water (WCP-Water). He referred to the inter-disciplinary and hence inter-agency nature of the programme and noted that the current activities included projects being implemented by WMO, UNESCO, FAO and the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS). Other agencies were invited to designate projects for inclusion in WCP-Water.

50. The Chairman recalled the statement made by the International Conference on the Assessment of the Role of Carbon Dioxide and of Other Greenhouse Gases in Climate Variations and Associated Impacts, convened jointly by WMO, UNEP and the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) at Villach, Austria, in October 1985. The statement noted that, as a result of the increasing concentration of greenhouse gases, it is now believed that in the next century an increase of global mean temperature could occur which would be greater than any in man's history and that this could have a profound effect on water resources. This was being studied within WCP-Water and the Chairman encouraged all agencies to consider this new and important dimension in their future planning.

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### III. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

51. The seventh session of the ACC Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources was held at WMO headquarters, Geneva, from 8 to 12 September 1986.

52. The session was opened by the Deputy Secretary-General of WMO, on behalf of the Secretary-General of WMO. In welcoming the participants, he indicated that the session of the Group was being held at WMO during the fortieth anniversary of international co-operation in hydrology, which had started with the establishment in 1946 of a Commission for Hydrology by the International Meteorological Organization - the predecessor of WMO. The year also marked the silver jubilee of the present WMO Commission for Hydrology, which held its first session in 1961. The Deputy Secretary-General stressed the vital role that the Group played in co-ordinating the work of the organizations in what was one of the most widely spread technical subjects handled within the United Nations system, and the need for the Group to continue its work during this period of diminishing financial resources, when the role of the United Nations system was being reassessed from within and without.

53. The list of participants is reproduced in annex I to the present report. Jaromir Nemeč (WMO) had been elected Chairman, and Pierre Najlis (United Nations) served as Secretary. The agenda, as adopted by the Group, is reproduced in annex II. The documents submitted to the Group are listed in annex III.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairman: Jaromir Nemeč (World Meteorological Organization)

Secretary: Pierre Najlis (United Nations)

United Nations

Department of International Economic  
and Social Affairs

Pierre Najlis

Department of Technical Co-operation  
for Development

Enzo Fano

Office of the United Nations Disaster  
Relief Co-ordinator

Masayuki Watanabe

Economic Commission for Europe

Henry Dirickx

Economic and Social Commission for  
Western Asia

Omar Tougan

United Nations Environment Programme

Laszlo David

United Nations Children's Fund

Martin Beyer

United Nations Development Programme

Peter Lowes

International Research and Training  
Institute for the Advancement of  
Women

Krishna Ahooja-Patel

Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organisation

Arbad Konye  
Peter Duiker

Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

Pieter J. Dieleman

United Nations Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organization

Frits Verhoog

World Health Organization

Odyer Sperandio  
Greg Watters  
J. Carefoot

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**World Meteorological Organization**

**Jaromir Nemeč  
Arthur Askew**

**United Nations Industrial  
Development Organization**

**Jack B. Carmichael**

\* \* \*

**International Atomic Energy Agency**

**Bryan Payne**



Annex II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Matters arising from the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) and the Organizational Committee of ACC.
4. Substantive and technical issues for discussion by the Group:
  - (a) Regional issues: the water situation in Africa;
  - (b) Education and training in water resources;
  - (c) The role of non-governmental organizations in water resources.
5. Co-ordination and co-operation in the implementation of regular programmes and field activities:
  - (a) Interregional symposium on improved efficiency in the management of water resources;
  - (b) Matters pertaining to the WMO/UNESCO International Conference on Hydrology and the Scientific Bases of Water Resources Management;
  - (c) Issues pertaining to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade;
  - (d) Review of regular programme activities and main issues related to the implementation of these programmes;
  - (e) Issues pertaining to the environmental aspects of water resources:
    - (i) Status of the Environmental Management of Inland Waters Programme (EMINWA) and of the Zambezi Action Plan;
    - (ii) Follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of the first African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
    - (iii) System-wide medium-term environment plan;
  - (f) Issues concerning technical co-operation activities.
6. Reports to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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7. Other matters.
8. Date and place of the eighth session of the Group and selection of candidate as chairman of the session.
9. Adoption of the report of the meeting.

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
ACC/ISGW/1986/1	Annotated provisional agenda
ACC/ISGW/1986/2	Proposed schedule of work
ACC/ISGW/1986/3	Matters arising from the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) and the Organizational Committee of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
ACC/ISGW/1986/4	Regional issues: the water situation in Africa. United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990
ACC/ISGW/1986/4/Add.1	Regional issues: the water situation in Africa. Activities of WMO relating to the assessment of water resources in Africa
ACC/ISGW/1986/4/Add.2	Regional issues: the water situation in Africa. Recommendations of the Addis Ababa meeting on socio-economic and policy aspects of water resources management
ACC/ISGW/1986/5	Co-ordination and co-operation with regard to present and future field and regular programme activities: compendium of programme budgets for 1986-1987 in the field of water resources
ACC/ISGW/1986/6	Issues concerning technical co-operation activities: recently approved projects and projects in the pipeline
ACC/ISGW/1986/7	First draft report on follow-up by Governments to the Mar del Plata Action Plan, for the tenth session of the Committee on Natural Resources
ACC/ISGW/1986/8	Statistical tables for report to the Committee on Natural Resources on the flow of financial resources for water resources development
ACC/ISGW/1986/9	Review of national manpower surveys in the water resources sector
UNEP/AEC.1/2	Report of the first African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, Cairo, 16-18 December 1985

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Document number

Title or description

UNEP (28 August 1986)

Further development and implementation of the  
Zambezi Action Plan

UNEP/WG.147/2/Rev.1

Draft diagnostic study on the present state of  
ecology and the environmental management of the  
common Zambezi River system (its conclusions and  
recommendations)

UNEP/WG.147/3/Rev.1

Draft Action Plan for the Environmental Management  
of the Common Zambezi River System

Annex IV

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE ACC  
INTERSECRETARIAT GROUP FOR WATER RESOURCES

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Matters arising from the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters).
4. Substantive and technical issues for discussion by the Group:
  - (a) The water situation in Africa;
  - (b) Human resources development;
  - (c) Operation and maintenance for water supply systems.
5. Co-ordination and co-operation in the implementation of regular programme activities:
  - (a) Outcome of the symposium on improved efficiency in the management of water resources;
  - (b) Outcome of the WMO/UNESCO International Conference on Hydrology and the Scientific Bases of Water Resources Management;
  - (c) Issues pertaining to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade;
  - (d) Issues pertaining to the environmental aspects of water resources;
  - (e) Review of regular programme activities and main issues related to the implementation of these programmes;
  - (f) Issues concerning technical co-operation activities.
6. Issues arising from the tenth session of the Committee on Natural Resources.
7. Other matters.
8. Date and place of the ninth session of the Group and selection of candidates for chairman of the Group.
9. Adoption of the report of the Group on its eighth session.

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