

Review of sectoral clusters: Land, desertification, forests, and biodiversity

CSD Ad Hoc Group on Sectoral Issues, United Nations

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27. It was appreciated that the report of the Secretary-General on sustainable mountain development (E/CN.17/1995/5), in addition to technical aspects, also covered the social, economic and cultural aspects of human development in mountain areas. The active role played by the non-governmental organization and the academic communities in the preparation of the document and in the general follow-up to chapter 13 was noted with appreciation. Attention was drawn to the need for international organizations and non-governmental organizations to join with Governments in the implementation of chapter 13 of Agenda 21.

28. The Working Group emphasized the need for action at the local, national and sub-regional and regional levels having the objective of reducing poverty in mountain areas, diversifying mountain economies, addressing environmental problems and creating new livelihood opportunities. In this connection it was stressed that people in mountain areas should receive a fair share of the benefits of resources originating in mountain areas with particular reference to the value of water, energy and mineral resources and income from tourism.

29. Concerning the proposals for action, the Working Group suggested that the Commission consider encouraging countries, with the support of the international community, to prepare and initiate implementation of comprehensive national mountain development programmes and to strengthen national capacity for sustainable mountain development using a participatory

approach involving all stakeholders, including local and indigenous communities and non-governmental organizations.

30. The Working Group generally agreed with the proposals for encouraging interested countries and organizations to convene regional intergovernmental consultations and noted that one such meeting, organized by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in December 1994, had already been successfully held in the Asia and Pacific region and that others were in the course of preparation. A wider international meeting, possibly involving appropriate United Nations bodies, could facilitate the exchange of objectives, results and experiences concerning sustainable development in different mountain regions.

31. The Working Group suggested that the Commission support efforts to coordinate the preparation and negotiation of sub-regional international agreements on mountains and, in this context, welcomed the entry into force of the Alpine Convention.

Notes to readers

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