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VOL. 10 - DOC. 18

1984/2

INAUGURAL MEETING

WCED/84/11

GENEVA, 1-3 OCTOBER 1984

Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

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1. The World Commission on Environment and Development has been established at a time of unprecedented growth in pressures on the global environment, with grave predictions about the human future becoming commonplace.
2. The Commission is confident that it is possible to build a future that is more prosperous, more just, and more secure because it rests on policies and practices that serve to expand and sustain the ecological basis of development.
3. The Commission is convinced, however, that this will not happen without significant changes in current approaches: changes in certain critical policies and the ways in which they are formulated and applied; changes in the nature of co-operation between government, business, science and people; changes in certain forms of international co-operation which have proved incapable of tackling many environment and development issues; changes, above all, in the level of understanding and commitment by people, organizations and governments.
4. The World Commission on Environment and Development therefore invites suggestions, participation and support in order to assist it urgently:
 - (1) to re-examine the critical issues of environment and development and to formulate innovative, concrete and realistic action-proposals to deal with them;
 - (2) to assess and propose new forms of international co-operation on environment and development that can break out of existing patterns and influence policies and events in the direction of needed change; and

(3) to raise the level of understanding and commitment to action on the part of individuals, voluntary organizations, businesses, institutes and governments.

5. The Commission solicits the views of those individuals, scientific institutes, non-governmental organizations, including business and trade unions, intergovernmental organizations, Specialized Agencies and other bodies of the United Nations and national governments concerned with environment and development issues. It requests their support and it will facilitate their participation in the work of the Commission.
6. In fulfilling its tasks, the Commission will pay careful attention to the Terms of Reference suggested by the General Assembly of the United Nations in resolution 38/161, in which the General Assembly welcomes the establishment of the Commission.