

**This document is downloaded from DR-NTU (<https://dr.ntu.edu.sg>)  
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.**

---

Seminar-Workshop on Environmental Policies  
and Media Reporting : Singapore, 27-31 January  
1992 : [excerpt from the Colombo Declaration of  
SAARC heads of state or government]

1992

<https://hdl.handle.net/10356/93581>

---

*Downloaded on 27 Apr 2025 19:07:15 SGT*

**Excerpt From The Colombo Declaration  
Of SAARC Heads of State Or Government**

(1)

29

A p p e n d i x  
Excerpt from the Colombo Declaration  
of SAARC Heads of State or  
Government who met at Summit Level  
on the 21st December 1991, in Colombo

Environmental Issues: The Heads of State or Government recognised that the degradation of the environment has emerged as a major global concern. While the protection of the environment is a common imperative for all humankind, the main responsibility in this regard rests on developed countries since most of the emission of pollutants originate in those countries and since they also have greater capacity for taking or facilitating corrective measures.

The Heads of State or Government called on the international community to address the question of unsustainable production and consumption patterns and life-styles which lead to environmental degradation. They were also of the view that environmental standards applicable to developed countries may have excessive and unwarranted economic or social costs if applied in developing countries.

Adequate new and additional resources are needed for developing countries to pursue an environmentally sensitive process of development that will banish the underlying causes of environmental degradation - poverty, malnutrition and unemployment. Such resources should be transferred to developing countries on an assured basis together with environmentally sound technology at preferential and concessional terms.

The Heads of State <sup>or</sup> ~~of~~ Government expressed their conviction that the framework could be laid <sup>p</sup> ~~for~~ <sup>a</sup> on equitable global partnership of all countries with a view to safeguarding the environment.

The Heads of State or Government noted that in preparation for the SAARC Year of the Environment, SAARC countries had taken various national as well as regional measures for the preservation of the environment.

(2)

The Heads of State or Government expressed their satisfaction at the completion of Regional Study of the causes and consequences of ~~National~~ <sup>Natural</sup> Disaster and the Protection and Preservation of Environment. They urged the member countries to promote co-operation amongst themselves for enhancing their respective disaster management capabilities and for undertaking specific work-programmes for protection and preservation of the environment. They endorsed the decision of the Counsel of Ministers to establish a Committee on Environment to:

- \* examine the recommendations of the Regional Study,
- \* identify measures for immediate action,
- \* decide on modalities for their implementation and welcomed the offer of Bangladesh to hold the first meeting of the Committee in Dhaka.

The Heads of State or Government noted with satisfaction the discussion of the standing Committee concerning the time-frame to finalize the regional study on the "Greenhouse Effect and its impact on the Region". They urged member countries to consult each other on key-issues concerning climate change, Bio-diversity and Bio-technology, a global consensus on Forestry principles, transfer of environmentally sound technology, management of waste and other issues for discussion at inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee and the UNCED in 1992 so that the consensus of SAARC countries could be effectively articulated and projected, keeping in mind their respective national priorities.

The Government of India renewed its offer to host a Ministerial Meeting to harmonize the view of SAARC countries on these issues, before UNCED 1992. The Heads of State or Government welcomed the offer.