

No. 829

**UNITED NATIONS
(UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME)
and
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION**

**Memorandum of Understanding concerning co-operation.
Signed at Geneva on 6 July 1977**

Authentic text: English.

Filed and recorded by the Secretariat on 29 January 1979.

**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
(PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES
POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT)**

et

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL

**Mémorandum d'accord concernant la coopération. Signé à
Genève le 6 juillet 1977**

Texte authentique : anglais.

Classé et inscrit au répertoire par le Secrétariat le 29 janvier 1979.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING¹ CONCERNING CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION AND THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

1. The present Memorandum of Understanding, agreed upon between the Director-General of the International Labour Office (ILO) and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), defines the aims which the ILO and UNEP will jointly pursue and the practical arrangements necessary to achieve them.

2. United Nations General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1973,² which established the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Environment Secretariat, the Environment Fund, and the Environment Co-ordination Board, invited the organisations of the United Nations system to “adopt the measures that may be required to undertake concerted and co-ordinated programmes with regard to international environmental problems, taking into account existing procedures for prior consultation, particularly on programme and budgetary matters”.

3. The Governing Council of UNEP at its third session in April 1975 invited “the governing bodies and executive heads of the organisations and organs of the United Nations system to formulate, following consultations between the executive heads of such organisations and organs and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, activities to implement in the medium term the strategies approved by the Council as contained in the frameworks set out in the environment programme, in respect of matters which fall within their respective mandates, and to allocate the necessary resources for the purpose”.

4. The ILO's activities in the field of environment are governed, in part, by the resolution adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 60th Session (June 1975) which invited the Governing Body of the ILO “to instruct the Director-General, as soon as resources permit, to undertake, in collaboration with, and with the support of, the United Nations Environment Programme, a coherent programme of ILO action concerning the environment which provides especially for educational and training activities in this field, as well as studies on the economic and social consequences of environmental policies”. The ILO's activities in the field of the environment are also governed by the decision of its Governing Body at its November 1975 session that the Director-General should: “take any appropriate measures to ensure that the ILO plays its full part in formulating and executing the United Nations Environment Programme...”. The Governing Body also adopted guidelines for the development of a coherent programme of ILO action concerning the environment.

5. The present Memorandum of Understanding is intended, in part, to give effect to the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution, to the relevant

¹ Came into force on 6 July 1977 by signature, in accordance with section 21.

² United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/8730)*, p. 43.

resolutions of the International Labour Conference and decisions of the Governing Body of the ILO and to the pertinent decisions of the Governing Council of UNEP. It is aimed at providing a framework for continuing co-operation and joint programming between UNEP and the ILO. Such joint programming is to be based on a reciprocal recognition of principles and modes of operation and on mutually supporting activities. The activities and measures emanating from joint programming will, in due course, be reflected in the draft programmes and budgets submitted to the Governing Body of the ILO and to the Governing Council of UNEP.

6. UNEP and the ILO agree that one of their common objectives is to promote sustainable satisfaction of basic human needs everywhere, and especially those of the poorest categories of the population; basic needs may be defined as threshold requirements for a decent human living in respect of food, shelter and clothing, as well as in respect of access to essential services such as safe drinking water, sanitation, health and education. Availability of productive and satisfying employment is considered both a means to, and an aspect of, the satisfaction of basic human needs. The ILO and UNEP recognise that natural and human resources should be used rationally and in the best long-term interests of societies so that an improved quality of life results for all. Thus, development and growth in all countries should be socially satisfactory and environmentally sound.

7. The ILO and UNEP recognise that informed popular participation and involvement are essential to the protection and enhancement of the human environment and for the rational use of countries' resources, natural and physical as well as human.

AREAS OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AND COLLABORATION

Working environment

8. The working environment is an integral part of the human environment. Problems of the general environment cannot be satisfactorily tackled unless the problems of the working environment are solved; similarly, lasting solutions to the problems of the working environment should be found in the larger context of the human environment. Improvement of the working environment should take account of its relation with the protection of the human environment.

9. With this perspective, the ILO and UNEP agree to cooperate in the following activities in the field of the working environment:

- (a) The appropriate design and location of factories and work-places so as to ensure a safe and healthy working environment and to protect the general environment;
- (b) The prevention and control of occupational accidents and diseases;
- (c) The prevention and control of air pollution, noise and vibration in the working environment;
- (d) Institutional support at the national, regional and local levels to improve the working environment;
- (e) Continuing liaison between the ILO's International Occupational and Health Information Centre (CIS) and UNEP's International Referral System (IRS), between the ILO's Working Conditions and Environment Department and