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Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
II. ANALYTICAL PRESENTATION OF THE REPLIES RECEIVED FROM STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	3
A. Promotion of the acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law	3
1. Promoting the acceptance of multilateral treaties	3
2. Assistance and technical advice to States to facilitate their participation in the process of multilateral treaty-making	3
B. Promotion of means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice	4
2. Suggestions by international organizations and bodies and national societies for the promotion of means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States ...	4

* A/49/150.

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
C. Encouragement of the progressive development of international law and its codification	4
D. Encouragement of the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law	4
2. Promotion of the teaching of international law for students and teachers at schools and at higher education levels and international cooperation for that purpose ...	4
5. Publication of the practice of States and international and regional organizations in the field of international law	5
6. Publication by States and international organizations of international legal instruments and legal studies	5

II. ANALYTICAL PRESENTATION OF THE REPLIES RECEIVED
FROM STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. Promotion of the acceptance of and respect
for the principles of international law

1. Promoting the acceptance of
multilateral treaties

20 bis. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) indicated that it produced a collection of the full texts of multilateral treaties relating to the environment along with data regarding the status of each treaty, which was updated twice annually. In addition, an updated version of a Chart of the Status of Multilateral Treaties in the field of Conservation and Environment was published in 1993. Both were the only fully current such compilations of ratifications and signatures available.

2. Assistance and technical advice to States
to facilitate their participation in the
process of multilateral treaty-making

29 bis. IUCN reported that its Environmental Law Centre had completed a project concerning the ASEAN Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, under which the national legislation of each ASEAN member State relevant to the implementation of the Agreement had been reviewed in order to facilitate the identification of steps to be taken by Governments to achieve full implementation. The IUCN Environmental Law Programme had also been pursuing several activities relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In 1993, the IUCN Environmental Law Centre began working on an Explanatory Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity, aimed at assisting with the implementation of that Convention. In addition, IUCN published, in 1993, Biological Diversity and the Law, which would assist States in implementing the part of the Convention dealing with species and ecosystem conservation. The Programme was furthermore assisting the Andean Pact secretariat in its preparation of a decision on access to genetic resources in accordance with the Convention, which was of considerable importance to its current and future implementation. The IUCN Environmental Law Commission was seeking the means to update its Chart on Responsibilities and required Initiatives in Accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which was written in the early 1980s, so as to assist States in the implementation of the Convention, particularly Part XII, which required extensive elaboration of natural environmental laws. The Law Programme had also published Guidelines for Legislation to Implement CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) in its "Environmental Policy and Law Series" (No. 26).

- B. Promotion of means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice
- 2. Suggestions by international organizations and bodies and national societies for the promotion of means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States

58 bis. IUCN observed that its Commission on Environmental Law had sought to promote the means of dispute settlement in an environmental context through the development of a draft International Covenant on Environment and Development. 1/ The draft Covenant requires, inter alia, the settlement of disputes by peaceful means and encourages the use of negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and judicial settlement.

- C. Encouragement of the progressive development of international law and its codification

69 bis. IUCN stated that its Commission on Environmental Law established an ad hoc working group of environmental law experts from all regions of the world to draft a global legally binding instrument on environmental law. The resulting draft International Covenant on Environment and Development is intended to be a study for consideration by the Member States of the United Nations, to be presented during the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. The current version takes into account the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). IUCN further reported that it was following the work of the Task Force on Environmental Rights and Obligations, led by the Netherlands, held from 23-25 February 1994. The Task Force elaborated elements which might be included in guidelines, covering such issues as rights of access to information as well as obligations to provide information, public access to administrative, judicial and quasi-judicial proceedings, and rights and scope of public participation in the decision-making process.

- D. Encouragement of the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law

- 2. Promotion of the teaching of international law for students and teachers at schools and at higher education levels and international cooperation for that purpose

82 bis. IUCN indicated that research fellows from developing countries were hosted annually at its Environmental Law Centre to study and research particular legal aspects of environmental conservation and sustainable development. The Law Centre hosted four research fellows during 1993, who were nationals of Fiji, Mauritania, Zimbabwe and Panama.

5. Publication of the practice of States and international and regional organizations in the field of international law

129 bis. At the request of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) secretariat, the IUCN Environmental Law Programme had analysed national legislation implementing CITES in 42 Parties in Europe and Africa. The analysis will be integrated into a document that will be presented by the secretariat to the next Conference of the Parties. In 1993, the Programme had also compiled and analysed national legislation relevant to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, as the first step towards producing a publication on legal mechanisms for wetlands conservation. IUCN also observed that its Environmental Law Centre was the only accessible repository of international environmental instruments and national environmental legislation. It was, moreover, a special sectoral source of UNEP/Infoterra and serviced various convention secretariats by building specific theme-oriented databases tailored to their needs.

6. Publication by States and international organizations of international legal instruments and legal studies

143 bis. IUCN reported that the Deputy Chairman of its Commission on Environmental Law had edited and published in 1993 an edition of Agenda 21 as IUCN "Environmental Policy and Law Paper" No. 27, which is being widely disseminated through Oceana Publications, Inc., under the title Agenda 21: Earth's Action Plan. The Law Programme had further edited six volumes of the proceedings of UNCED for use as a library reference: Agenda 21 & The UNCED Proceedings (Oceana Publications, Dobbs Ferry, NY). Moreover, the International Council on Environmental Law issued the journal Environmental Policy and Law as well as the newsletter Environmental Notes for Parliamentarians.

Notes

1/ See para. 69 bis below.
