

Hundred and seventy-first session

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**INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT (IPED)**

SUMMARY

This item has been placed on the provisional agenda of the 171st session of the Executive Board at the request of Italy.

An explanatory note is attached.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Italy boasts a long, well-established tradition of technical and scientific support to developing countries. By way of illustration, one need only recall the backing provided to the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in Europe (ROSTE).

In this context, the Italian Government proposes to launch an International Programme for Environmental Development (IPED), financed entirely from national funds, since Italy is fully aware of the fact that the preservation of the environment is one of the priorities of our time and that the protection of nature and territorial management are crucial for sustainable development, for the safeguard of the tangible and intangible heritage and for the cultural identity of peoples and local communities.

Through this project, the Italian Government seeks to provide a practical response to the pressing need for the developing countries to acquire adequate technical expertise in safeguarding and managing the environment in line with national needs and priorities.

This initiative is thus aimed at technicians and policy-makers and will primarily entail the organization of theoretical and practical training courses that would be held in “areas with a homogeneous environment”, where participants from different geographical regions with the same or similar problems would meet.

The project also makes provision for setting up a Secretariat with its headquarters in Italy so as to ensure the effective organizational and financial management of the activities.

In order to define the Programme’s operational procedures, the ranking of themes to be dealt with and the specific contents of the courses, it is planned to establish a Policy and Management Board, in which it would be hoped that representatives of UNESCO, UNEP and UNDP could also participate, for this initiative could not be successful without the input of the know-how and skills that have been so highly developed within these organizations in the field of the environment, especially in Third World countries. These same organizations will be called upon to contribute, at no cost, to the planning of activities and to the practical implementation of training programmes through the participation of teachers and teacher-trainers.