

B.A. (Hons.)-Political Science, Semester-VI
 Topic- STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (1972)

INTRODUCTION

The need for the protection of human environment can be legitimately described as the international objective of primary importance. The protection of environment has today gained recognition as the common concern of all the civilized states. Consequently, protection of environment through global and collective efforts constitutes one of the major areas of activity in contemporary times. The concept of protection of the environment involves the attempt to prevent pollution, particularly global pollution or environmental degradation. One of the accepted rules of International law has been that no state should act in a manner or permit the use of its territory in a way which can be injurious to other states.

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Stockholm Conference on Human Environment:

Consequently, the UN convention on Human Environment was held at Stockholm from 5 to June 16, 1972 and it adopted a declaration on Human environment. Some areas were delimited for securing action directed to protect Human Environment

• **The Declaration on the Human Environment:**

The UN Conference on Human Environment, 1972 in its section 1 contained the Declaration on the human environment. The declaration on the human environment stands divided in two parts.

The first part contains general observations like man is both creature and moulder of his environment, the protection and improvement of the human environment effects the economic development of the world and the natural growth of population continuously presents problems on the preservation of the environment. The second part of the declaration contains 26 principles. These principles reflect the fundamental international responsibility of states regarding environmental preservation and pollution control.

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• **The action plan for Human Environment:**

I- An Earth watch programme to identify problems of international significance so as to warn against impending environmental crises.

II- Recommendations concerning "environmental management or in other words the application in practice of what was shown to be desirable or necessary in regard to the environment", and

III- Supporting measure's such as education, training, public information and others.

• **The Resolution on Institutional and Financial Arrangements:**

This resolution recommended the establishment of a 54-member Governing Council for Environmental Programmes. This Governing Council was directed to keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problem should receive appropriate and adequate consideration by governments. The resolution recommended the establishment of a voluntary fund for addition of finances for environmental programmes.

• **Resolution on Designation of World Environment Day:** In order to create consciousness among the people for environmental problems, the resolution on World Environment Day unanimously recommended that a World Environment Day be observed on 5th June each year.

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• **Resolution on Nuclear Weapon Tests:**

A resolution in plenary session condemned nuclear tests, especially those carried out in the atmosphere and called upon states to refrain from conducting such tests as contaminated the environment.

• **Resolution on holding of a second conference on Environment:**

The resolution recommended that UN General Assembly should take initiative to convene a second UN Conference on the Human Environment at an appropriate time.

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• **Decision to refer to Governments recommendations for action at the National Level:**

The Stockholm conference on Human Environment also referred to state governments recommendations for action at the national level.

Besides these measures, the conference recommended that the draft articles of a convention on Ocean dumping be referred for adoption to a conference to be convened by the UK towards the end of 1972.

Some of the decisions and recommendations of Stockholm Conference were implemented by the resolutions of the UN General Assembly in its 27th session in 1972.