

technology transfer—which most governments supported. The General Assembly adopted several resolutions related to CSD. One promotes widespread information dissemination of UNCED declarations at all levels (GA Res. 48/190, Dec. 21, 1993). Another invites governments and relevant UN-affiliated organizations to review and improve their contribution to international environmental monitoring (GA Res. 48/192, Dec. 21, 1993).

In 1994, two working groups are planned. One deals specifically with financial flows and mechanisms, the other with technology transfer and cooperation. The findings of these groups will be reported back to the Commission. Its 1994 session, expected to be held at the end of May in New York, will provide the first opportunity for substantive review of the Rio agreements. ♦

General Assembly Names First High Commissioner for Human Rights

By Richard Hartzman

On February 14, 1993, the General Assembly approved the Secretary-General's appointment of José Ayala Lasso as the first United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. He will serve a four-year term beginning February 8, 1994.

Prior to his appointment, Lasso chaired the Sixth Committee working group that considered the establishment of the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights and other aspects of the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. He played a key role in crafting the consensus resolution creating the post. The resolution was adopted by the General Assembly on December 20, 1993 [see 33 ILM 303 (1994)].

Lasso, Ecuador's UN Ambassador since 1989, also served as Ecuador's permanent representative to the Security Council during 1991 and 1992 and was president of the Council during August 1991 and September 1992. In 1992, he was chairman of the Security Council Committee, established pursuant to Resolution 723 (1991), concerning the former Yugoslavia.

As first High Commissioner for Human Rights, Lasso will have the difficult challenge of resolving tensions between developed and developing countries over the scope of the High Commissioner's powers, and of overcoming the skepticism of human rights organizations about his expertise in the human rights field and about his association with Ecuador's military government in the 1970s. U.S. Ambassador to the UN Madeleine K. Albright has expressed U.S. support for the choice of Lasso, pointing to his role

in creating the post of High Commissioner and saying that he has repeatedly demonstrated his "commitment to the protection of universal human rights."

The High Commissioner's office will have an initial budget of \$1.41 million for 1994-95, allowing for a staff of two professionals—one in Geneva and one in New York. ♦

NEWS OF MEMBERS

After many years in Washington, DC, Gonzalo Biggs has returned to private practice in Santiago and is also teaching international environmental law at the Diego Portales University and Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile. His government appointed him member of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Finance and Transfer of Technology established by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development for the implementation of Agenda 21.

Ove Bring, special legal adviser on international law to the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, has recently been appointed professor of public international law at the University of Uppsala, Sweden.

Thomas Buergenthal has been nominated by the United States Government for a seat on the UN Human Rights Committee. The election will be held in September.

Hans Axel Valdemar Corell has been appointed by Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali as Under Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and Legal Counsel of the UN. He succeeds Carl-August Fleischhauer who, in November 1993, was elected to serve on the International Court of Justice.

Corell had been the Under-Secretary for Legal and Consular Affairs of Sweden's Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1984. Before that, he spent 22 years working in a variety of capacities for the Swedish Ministry of Justice. Interspersed with his service in the Ministry of Justice, Corell served as an additional Member of the Svea Court of Appeal in 1973, as Associate Judge of Appeal in 1974, and as Judge of Appeal in 1980.

A member of the Swedish delegation to the United Nations General Assembly since 1985, Corell has been a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague since 1990 and a member of various expert committees in Sweden, within the Council of Europe, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

As UN Under Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and Legal Counsel, Corell will head the UN Office