

Convention has also been recognized by the parties to the Convention, which bans the development, production, and stockpiling, of biological weapons. The Final Declaration adopted by the third Biological Weapons Convention Review Conference, held in 1991, urged greater cooperation in international public health and disease control, the provision of training programmes to developing countries, the coordination of international and regional programmes, and the pooling of information from national epidemiological surveillance and data-reporting systems 'with a view to improvements in the identification and timely reporting of significant outbreaks of human and animal diseases.' However, no mechanisms were set up for achieving these lofty goals, and precedents indicate that they will, in all likelihood, be

ignored. The consensus declaration also noted that existing international means are inadequate and must be developed further in order to promote international cooperation in medicine, public health, and agriculture.

The timely conjunction of public health and arms-control needs makes this an opportune time to mount a coordinated initiative. This initiative will bring together international experts to develop a plan and encourage the implementation of a fully-effective global programme for infectious-disease surveillance and response.

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The Active Futures Network

The Active Futures Network, or AFN, is a multinational, multidisciplinary coalition of Futures-oriented research institutes and organizations, the main purposes of which are the encouragement of information exchange and project development collaboration. We would also like to see the further development of Futures Studies as a recognized and relevant research discipline.

AFN will be coordinated by the International Division of the Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies, the undersigned Director of which will act as Secretary to the network. The Secretary will keep members of the network generally informed about ongoing individual or collaborative projects, and arrange for voting at project-development meetings around the network.

There is no charge to members for joining AFN. Institutes wishing to join will be required to file a current annual report, and appoint a contact person, who will then be the liaison officer between AFN and the member organization. The total of liaison officers will form the AFN Board of Trustees.

It is envisaged that meetings between liaison officers will take place at various times, but there will be no requirement to hold such meetings. What meetings do occur will be held on a rotating basis between institute locations, and will be self-financing. Larger conferences and symposia will be held in sites offering adequate sponsorship. Fund-raising for these events will originate with the Institute's Secretariat, but members are welcome to participate in the process.

AFN will function as a catalyst for project development and collaborative research. It will also act as a clearing-house for information on a diverse range of futures-relevant research.

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New Director-General of WWF

The World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) recently announced its election of Dr Claude Martin to succeed the present Director-General, Mr Charles de Haes. Dr Martin, currently Deputy Director-General, took up his new duties after the WWF Annual Conference in Vienna, Austria, in October 1993.

'Claude Martin has a wealth of conservation credentials and his work with WWF-Switzerland, and more recently at [WWF's world headquarters in] Gland, has demonstrated that he also has the administrative skills for his new appointment,' said HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, WWF International President. 'I am confident that under Claude's leadership, WWF will continue to grow and fulfil its mission,' said Mr Charles de Haes, WWF-International's Director-General, who last November announced his intention to retire after 17 years in the post. During his leadership, he had directed the growth of WWF into 'the world's largest conservation organization', with an estimated more than 5 million regular supporters and conservation activities in more than 90 countries.

WWF-International's Board of Trustees selected Dr Martin at a meeting on 22 June in London, following a seven-months' search and screening of candidates. Dr Martin, a Swiss, became the third Director-General of WWF, after Dr Frits Vollmar and Charles de Haes. In

accepting the post, he said that a combination of new and traditional approaches are needed in order to win the fight to conserve the world's natural heritage. 'The conservation problems facing Humankind are serious, but WWF's solution-oriented approach — based on field experience and policy expertise — will enable us to meet the future with confidence,' he said.

Dr Martin, 47, has been Deputy Director-General of WWF-International since 1990, overseeing WWF's field, policy, education, and communications, activities. He served as Director and Chief Executive of WWF-Switzerland from 1980-90, during which time he also played a key role in WWF-International programmes. In the 1970s, he carried out ecological studies while living in Central India, and later served as a National Park Director in West Africa. He has carried out numerous conservation missions around the world and has, in particular, initiated forest conservation programmes in Africa and Asia. Dr Martin received a doctorate in biology from the University of Zürich, Switzerland. He is Author of the book, *The Rainforests of West Africa* (1991), and of numerous other publications.

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