

PRESS RELEASE

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNCC
CONCLUDES ITS THIRTY-NINTH SESSION

The Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission, under the Presidency of Ambassador Sverre Bergh Johansen (Norway), has concluded today its thirty-ninth session.

The Council adopted the following conclusion recommended by the Working Group:

"Taking into account the Executive Secretary's recommendations, the Working Group further discussed the 'issue of making funds available to Iraq for purposes of hiring experts to assist in preparing Iraq's responses to claims in general and in particular the environmental claims.'

"Subject to agreement on modalities and without prejudice to the respective positions of Governing Council members, the Governing Council agrees in principle that funds be made available for the purpose of hiring experts, through the UNCC budget, whose work will be of assistance to Iraq in responding to 'F4' environmental claims.

"The Working Group will continue the discussion of the issues referred to in paragraph 22 of decision 114 (S/AC.26/Dec.114 (2000)) in an informal meeting to be held on 4 May 2001. The Working Group recommends that a special session of the Governing Council be convened to hear the report of the Working Group prior to the fortieth session of the Council."