



General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 November 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session

Agenda item 19 (d)

Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 19 (see [A/69/468](#), para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 30th and 33rd meetings, on 5 and 20 November 2014. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records ([A/C.2/69/SR.30](#) and 33).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions [A/C.2/69/L.9](#) and [A/C.2/69/L.45](#)

2. At the 30th meeting, on 5 November, the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind" ([A/C.2/69/L.9](#)), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008, 64/73 of 7 December 2009, 65/159 of 20 December 2010, 66/200 of 22 December 2011, 67/210 of 21 December 2012 and 68/212 of 20 December 2013 and other resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 10 parts, under the symbol [A/69/468](#) and Add.1-9.



“Recalling also the objectives, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,

“Acknowledging that the developed country parties must take the lead in combating climate change and its adverse effects,

“Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the outcomes of the thirteenth to nineteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the third to ninth sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway),

“Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled ‘The future we want’,

“Recalling further its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group would be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda,

“1. Takes note of the outcome of the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, hosted by the Government of Poland in Warsaw from 11 to 23 November 2013;

“2. Also takes note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Warsaw from 11 to 23 November 2013;

“3. Notes the conclusion of the Secretary-General’s Climate Summit, and welcomes its contribution to existing political momentum with a view to advancing climate change negotiations;

“4. Notes with appreciation the hosting by the Government of Peru of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Lima from 1 to 12 December 2014;

“5. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

“6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017;

“7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled ‘Sustainable development’, the sub-item entitled ‘Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind’.”

3. At its 33rd meeting, on 20 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind” ([A/C.2/69/L.45](#)), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Tishka Francis (Bahamas), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.9](#).

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.45](#) had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the facilitator of the draft resolution, the representative of Peru, orally corrected the draft resolution (see [A/C.2/69/SR.33](#)).

6. Also at its 33rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.45](#), as orally corrected (see para. 9).

7. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Japan and the United States of America (see [A/C.2/69/SR.33](#)).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.45](#), draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.9](#) was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008, 64/73 of 7 December 2009, 65/159 of 20 December 2010, 66/200 of 22 December 2011, 67/210 of 21 December 2012 and 68/212 of 20 December 2013 and other resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,

Recalling also the objectives, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,¹

Recalling further that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions, and that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides that parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,² the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development³ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),⁴ the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁵ the outcomes of the thirteenth to nineteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the third to ninth sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011,⁶ the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,⁷ the Mauritius

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

² Resolution 55/2.

³ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁴ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

⁵ Resolution 60/1.

⁶ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

⁷ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Declaration⁸ and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States⁹ and the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway),¹⁰

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,¹¹

Recalling further its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals¹² and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, expresses profound alarm that the emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally, remains deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing increased impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and in this regard emphasizes that adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority;

2. *Notes* the determination of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in its decision 2/CP.18,¹³ to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties at its twenty-first session, due to be held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015, and for it to come into effect and be implemented from 2020;

3. *Takes note* of the outcome of the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, hosted by the Government of Poland in Warsaw from 11 to 23 November 2013;¹⁴ and in particular its invitation, in its decision 1/CP.19,¹⁵ to all parties to initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions, without prejudice to the legal nature of the

⁸ *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

⁹ *Ibid.*, annex II.

¹⁰ *Report of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, Apia, Samoa, 1-4 September 2014* (A/CONF.223/10), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

¹¹ Resolution 66/288, annex.

¹² A/68/970.

¹³ See FCCC/CP/2012/8/Add.1.

¹⁴ FCCC/CP/2013/10/Add.1, Add.2/Rev.1 and Add.3 and FCCC/KP/CMP/2013/9/Add.1.

¹⁵ See FCCC/CP/2013/10/Add.1.

contributions, in the context of adopting a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its article 2 and to communicate them well in advance of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (by the first quarter of 2015 by those parties ready to do so) in a manner that facilitates the clarity, transparency and understanding of the intended contributions, without prejudice to the legal nature of the contributions;

4. *Notes* the reiteration by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention that the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action shall be guided by the principles of the Convention;

5. *Also notes* the request of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention that the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action further elaborate elements for a draft negotiating text, taking into consideration its work, including its work on mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity-building and transparency of action and support;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Warsaw from 11 to 23 November 2013;¹⁶

7. *Also takes note* of decision 2/CP.19 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its nineteenth session,¹⁵ and resolves to work together to implement and operationalize the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts;

8. *Notes* the conclusion of the Secretary-General's Climate Summit, and welcomes its contribution to the existing political momentum, with a view to galvanizing action to address climate change;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the hosting by the Government of Peru of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Lima from 1 to 12 December 2014;

10. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind".

¹⁶ [A/69/317](#), sect. I.