

timely attention, preferably during its special session to be held from 19 to 22 February 1986, to relevant decisions of the High-level Committee, including decision 4/7 of 5 June 1985;⁷⁴

3. *Recognizes* the necessity for programmes of technical co-operation among developing countries to be fully integrated into the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

4. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit on United Nations development system support to the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries;

5. *Requests* the organizations of the United Nations system to take the necessary action, in their respective fields of activity, to ensure the implementation of the decisions of the High-level Committee;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*119th plenary meeting
17 December 1985*

40/197. Remnants of war

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3435 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, 35/71 of 5 December 1980, 36/188 of 17 December 1981, 37/215 of 20 December 1982, 38/162 of 19 December 1983 and 39/167 of 17 December 1984 concerning the problem of remnants of war,

Recalling also decisions 80 (IV) of 9 April 1976,⁷⁵ 101 (V) of 25 May 1977,⁷⁶ 9/5 of 25 May 1981⁷⁷ and 10/8 of 28 May 1982⁷⁸ of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling further resolution 32 adopted by the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo from 16 to 19 August 1976,⁷⁹ and resolution 26/11-P adopted by the Eleventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Islamabad from 17 to 22 May 1980,⁸⁰

Convinced that the responsibility for the removal of the remnants of war should be borne by the countries that planted them,

Recognizing that the presence of the material remnants of war, including mines, in the territories of developing countries seriously impedes their development efforts and causes loss of life and property,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the problem of remnants of war;⁸¹

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to continue his efforts with the countries responsible for planting the mines and the affected developing countries in order to ensure the implementation of the relevant resolutions;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-second session a detailed

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/31/25)*, annex I.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/32/25)*, annex I.

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/36/25 and Corr. 1)*, annex I.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25)*, part two, annex.

⁷⁹ See A/31/197, annex IV, sect. B.

and comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*119th plenary meeting
17 December 1985*

40/198. Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

A

IMPLEMENTATION AND FINANCING OF THE PLAN OF ACTION

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977, by which it approved the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,¹⁴

Recalling also its resolutions 33/89 of 15 December 1978, 34/184 of 18 December 1979, 36/191 of 17 December 1981, 37/220 of 20 December 1982 and 38/163 of 19 December 1983, dealing with the implementation and financing of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/29 of 3 December 1984,

Noting with dismay and grave concern the continuing spread and intensification of desertification in developing countries, especially in Africa, and the grave human suffering, economic losses and social disruption caused by this phenomenon,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its thirteenth session⁸² and decision 13/30 A of 23 May 1985 of the Governing Council⁸³ on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Having also considered the report of the Secretary-General on financing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,⁸⁴

1. *Takes note* of decision 13/30 A of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. *Shares* the concern of the Governing Council over the slow implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

3. *Urges* Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies to intensify their efforts in combating desertification and to accord the highest priority to actions recommended in the Plan of Action and decision 13/30 A of the Governing Council;

4. *Notes* the significant role that non-governmental organizations are playing in the anti-desertification efforts, and calls upon Governments and organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies to explore all opportunities of involving them more in this effort;

5. *Urges* the international community to increase its assistance to the countries concerned with a view to the implementation of their national and regional programmes aimed at desertification control;

6. *Endorses* the Governing Council's invitation to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to consult with the principal international

⁸⁰ See A.35.419-S.14129, annex I.

⁸¹ A/40/650.

⁸² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/40/25)*.

⁸³ *Ibid.*, annex.

⁸⁴ A/40/644.

organizations which are funding desertification control activities in order to ascertain how the Programme can facilitate funding activities, and to recommend measures to enhance co-operation in this field;

7. *Urges* Governments of countries affected by desertification to accord sustained priority to medium-term and long-term strategies and programmes for combating desertification and to ensure that these are smoothly integrated with their national development plans and regional co-operative programmes to curb the spread of environmental degradation;

8. *Notes* the measures approved by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in its decision 13/30 A,⁸⁵ to enhance the work of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification and calls upon all members of the Working Group to intensify their joint efforts for the effective implementation of the Plan of Action;

9. *Requests* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action;

10. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on financing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

11. *Notes* the dearth of reactions and replies on the measures for providing additional resources needed for financing the Plan of Action recommended in the three reports prepared by high-level financial experts convened by the Executive Director in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/172,⁸⁵

12. *Considers* that the expert studies deserve further consideration and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take due account of them under his responsibility with respect to the implementation of the Plan of Action, as well as within the framework of the mandate of the Consultative Group on Desertification Control;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution.

*119th plenary meeting
17 December 1985*

B

IMPLEMENTATION IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 36/190 of 17 December 1981, 37/216 of 20 December 1982, 38/164 of 19 December 1983, and 39/168 of 17 December 1984,

Noting decision 13/30 B of 23 May 1985 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme⁸⁵ on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Noting also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1984/65 of 26 July 1984 on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, and 1984/72 of 27 July 1984 on environment and development in Africa,

Considering the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,⁸⁶

Considering also the report of the Secretary-General on the critical situation of food and agriculture in Africa, 1984-1985,⁸⁷

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

2. *Notes with concern:*

(a) The damage wrought by drought on the countries of Africa south of the Sahara;

(b) That insufficient financial resources continue to be a serious constraint in combating desertification;

(c) That the struggle against desertification requires financial and human resources beyond the means of the affected countries;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress that the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office has made in the face of these obstacles in assisting, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Governments of the countries of the region in combating desertification, under a joint venture between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme;

4. *Endorses* the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to add the United Republic of Tanzania to the list of countries to be assisted by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in their efforts to implement the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, contained in Council decision 13/30 B,⁸¹

5. *Commends* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for the effective and co-ordinated manner in which they have continued to develop the joint venture through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office;

6. *Recommends* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to continue and increase their support for the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in order to enable it to respond more adequately to the pressing needs of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian and adjacent regions;

7. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Governments, specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and all organizations that have contributed to the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

8. *Draws the attention* of the international community to the need to increase the efforts to implement the Plan of Action in the Sudano-Sahelian region and urges it to contribute to this implementation through appropriate means, including the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities, as well as to respond favourably to requests for assistance from the Governments of the countries of the region;

9. *Recommends* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to make the necessary arrangements, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 39/217 of 18 December 1984, for submitting to the Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, a

⁸⁵ UNEP/GC.6/9/Add.1, A/35/396, A/36/141

⁸⁶ UNEP/GC.13/7/Add.1.

⁸⁷ A.40/329-E/1985/80

report on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

*119th plenary meeting
17 December 1985*

40/199. Co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and 35/77 B of 5 December 1980,

Having considered resolution 8/14 adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements on 8 May 1985⁸⁸ and decision 13/12 adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on 23 May 1985,⁸³

Decides to discontinue the annual meetings of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the bureau of its Governing Council.

*119th plenary meeting
17 December 1985*

40/200. International co-operation in the field of the environment

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the international dimension of environmental problems, the role of environmental factors in the broader economic and social context, and the importance of taking environmental considerations fully into account in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,²²

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its thirteenth session,⁸²

Having considered also the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment,⁸⁹

Noting with deep concern that the harmful consequences of the drought and desertification seriously affecting many countries, in particular African countries, are exacerbated by the continued erosion of the resource base for the development of those countries,

Reaffirming the importance of the interrelationships between resources, environment, people and development, and the need to take those interrelationships into account in development policies and strategies,

Stressing the importance of an international exchange of experience and knowledge concerning the protection of the environment,

Noting the activity of the United Nations Environment Programme on the subject "The arms race and the environment", in accordance with its programme of work as adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Mindful of the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources, including their forests,

Noting also the activities of the United Nations and other international organizations, as well as the international initiatives being taken that are directed towards the important objective of rational management, protection and rehabilitation of the world's forests,

Recalling its resolution 38/161 of 19 December 1983 on the process of preparation of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its thirteenth session and endorses the decisions contained therein,⁸² as adopted;

2. *Welcomes* the decision of the Governing Council to change to a biennial cycle of sessions on an experimental basis and in this regard takes note of the establishment of the open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives to facilitate this process;⁹⁰

3. *Invites* the Governing Council, when reviewing the experiment with the organization of a biennial work programme, to consider changes that may in consequence be necessary in the functioning of the Council, including the term of membership;

4. *Welcomes* section III of decision 13/1 of 23 May 1985,⁸³ and decision 13/10 of 24 May 1985⁸³ by which the Governing Council initiated steps towards the preparation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 and invited the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to review and further develop the methodology in the light of the experience gained in the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1984-1989;

5. *Takes note* of the work done by the Special Commission on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which has adopted the name World Commission on Environment and Development, and by the Intergovernmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond in the preparation of their reports, and recalls the relationship between the Commission and the Committee, as set out in General Assembly resolution 38/161;

6. *Takes note* of the progress on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment during 1985, including the adoption of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and of an international protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, on sulphur emissions and fluxes, and the organization of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals;

7. *Considers* that measures to deal with the erosion of the natural resource base in countries affected by drought and desertification should have as one of their major aims the sustainable exploitation and increased productivity of that natural resource base;

8. *Welcomes* the importance attached by the Governing Council to regional approaches and programmes relating to international co-operation in the field of the environment, and in this context stresses the relevance of specific regional planning identified by the regions themselves;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the convening of the first African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at Cairo from 16 to 18 December 1985;

⁸⁸ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/40/8 and Corr.1), annex I, sect. A.*

⁸⁹ UNEP/GC.13/10.

⁹⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/40/25), annex, decision 13/2.*