

14. *Invites* Governments, international organizations and, as appropriate, scientific/technical organizations to promote sustainable water use for food production and rural development by improving the efficiency of current water use for irrigation in developing countries, particularly at the village level;

15. *Requests* the relevant regional and international organizations to assist the cooperative efforts of developing countries in the area of conservation, sustainable use and integrated management of water, and stresses the need for full implementation of the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, particularly in the area of fresh water;

16. *Welcomes* the pledges that have been made by Member States to the Fourth Replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and in that context invites countries that have not yet done so to consider their pledges as soon as possible, taking into account the decisions taken by the Fund's Special Committee on Resource Requirements and Related Governance Issues;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, focusing in particular on the use of freshwater resources, as well as on the effects of the results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations on food production, including agro-industrial products and global food security in developing countries;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the sub-item entitled "Food and agricultural development" under the item entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation".

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#### 49/104. Commodities

##### *The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolutions 45/200 of 21 December 1990, 47/185 of 22 December 1992 and 48/214 of 23 December 1993, and stressing the urgent need for their full implementation,

*Welcoming* the importance attached in Agenda 21,<sup>3</sup> adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to issues related to commodities in the context of sustainable development,

*Recalling* the commitments on market access made in the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations<sup>4</sup> and the importance attached therein to increased export opportunities for developing countries,

*Recognizing* that in many developing countries, in particular African countries and least developed countries, the commodity sector remains the principal source of export revenues, employment, income and savings, an important field for investment and a significant contributor to the reactivation of growth and development,

*Noting* the recent increase of some commodity prices, recognizing that this may not constitute a long-term trend, and recognizing also the need for a better functioning of commodity markets and the necessity of stable and more predictable commodity prices, including avoiding excessive price fluctuations and searching for long-term solutions to commodity problems,

*Concerned* about the difficulties experienced by the developing countries in financing and implementing viable diversification programmes,

*Mindful* of the need for developing countries, especially African countries and least developed countries, to diversify their economies and in particular the commodity sector, with a view to modernizing their production, distribution and marketing systems, enhancing productivity and stabilizing and increasing their export earnings in the context of the general decline of primary commodity prices,

1. *Takes note with interest* of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the commodity situation, developmental linkages between the commodity sector and other sectors and actions required to develop such linkages in the context of diversification;<sup>43</sup>

2. *Emphasizes* the need for developing countries that are heavily dependent on primary commodities to continue to promote a domestic policy and an institutional environment that encourage diversification and enhance competitiveness;

3. *Expresses* the urgent need for supportive international policies to improve the functioning of commodity markets through efficient and transparent price formation mechanisms, including commodity exchanges, and through the use of commodity price risk management instruments;

4. *Notes* the need expressed by developing countries, in particular the commodity-dependent developing countries, for stable and more predictable commodity prices;

5. *Stresses* the importance of commodity diversification as a means to increase export revenues of developing countries and to improve their competitiveness in the face of the persistent instability in the prices of some primary commodities and the general deterioration in the terms of trade;

6. *Urges* developed countries to continue to support the commodity diversification efforts of developing countries, especially African countries, *inter alia*, by providing technical and financial assistance for the preparatory phase of their commodity diversification programmes;

7. *Reiterates* the importance of maximizing the contribution of the commodity sector to economic growth and sustainable development in commodity-dependent developing countries, and in this respect stresses, *inter alia*, that:

(a) An appropriate domestic environment and favourable international environment are critical for successful diversification and the creation of developmental linkages between the commodity sector and other sectors of the economy, as well as for the availability of market outlets;

(b) Trade-distorting policies and practices, including tariff and non-tariff barriers, tariff escalation and obstacles to competition, have a negative effect on the ability of developing countries to diversify their exports and to undertake the requisite restructuring of their commodity sector;

(c) Expansion of South-South trade in commodities offers opportunities for intersectoral linkages within and among exporting countries;

(d) There is a need to promote research and development, to provide infrastructure and support services and to encourage investment, including joint ventures in developing countries engaged in the commodity and commodity-processing sectors;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance for developing countries to process a significant part of their commodities, and in this regard stresses the need for new market opportunities for their processed and semi-processed commodities;

<sup>43</sup> A/49/226.

9. *Expresses* the need for the full implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements<sup>12</sup>, taking into account the special and differential treatment agreed for developing countries, including the provisions envisaged for African countries and the least developed countries;

10. *Welcomes* the work being done by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the impact of the results of the Uruguay Round on individual commodities of particular interest to developing countries and invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to intensify this exercise in close collaboration with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions and other concerned organizations;

11. *Notes with appreciation* the work under way by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in assessing the impact of the Uruguay Round on agricultural commodity markets, and encourages that organization to pursue its work and to inform the General Assembly of its findings;

12. *Urges* producers and consumers of individual commodities to intensify their efforts aimed at reinforcing mutual cooperation and assistance;

13. *Welcomes* the assignment to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development of the United Nations global mandate for mineral resources, and urges that efforts be made to mobilize financial resources to allow the Conference, in close collaboration with the regional commissions, to expand its technical assistance to developing countries in that area;

14. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Standing Committee on Commodities of the Trade and Development Board, urging the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its work on commodity risk management, particularly in relation to developing countries;

15. *Stresses* the importance of improving the competitiveness of natural products with environmental advantages and the impact that this could have on promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, and calls for financial and technical assistance to the developing countries for research and development of such products;

16. *Notes* the increased number of requests for assistance that the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities is receiving, expresses the need for efficient allocation of the existing resources, and also notes the expectations expressed by member countries of the Fund that further voluntary contributions will be forthcoming;

17. *Decides* to include the question of commodities in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session.

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#### 49/105. Cultural development

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 41/187 of 8 December 1986, in which it proclaimed the period 1988-1997 the World Decade for Cultural Development, to be observed under the auspices of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

*Recalling also* its resolution 46/157 of 19 December 1991, in which it invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to undertake the preparation of a global

mid-term review of the Decade, including an examination by the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development of the summary evaluation report to be prepared by the Director-General,

*Taking into account* 27 C/Resolution 3.2 of 13 November 1993,<sup>44</sup> adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-seventh session,

*Recalling* its resolution 46/158 of 19 December 1991, in which it endorsed the establishment of an independent World Commission on Culture and Development,

*Taking into consideration* Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/32 of 27 July 1994,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the progress made in relation to the World Decade for Cultural Development during the period 1992-1993;<sup>45</sup>

2. *Also takes note* of the examination of the mid-term summary evaluation report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the Plan of Action for the Decade;<sup>46</sup>

3. *Acknowledges* the progress made by Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in implementing the Plan of Action for the World Decade for Cultural Development,<sup>47</sup> and encourages them to pursue their efforts in this respect during the second part of the Decade;

4. *Welcomes* the establishment of the independent World Commission on Culture and Development and looks forward to its report as requested in resolution 46/158;

5. *Invites* all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and, within existing budgetary resources, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system:

(a) When undertaking activities in connection with the Decade, to concentrate efforts on interdisciplinary projects of a regional and interregional scope and to encourage the formation of different types of partnerships for their implementation;

(b) To find appropriate ways to integrate cultural factors into all endeavours aimed at social and economic development and at the same time to promote intercultural understanding and appreciation;

6. *Invites* the regional commissions to consider undertaking, as a contribution to the final evaluation report on the Decade and in consultation with Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, a study of the cultural factors influencing development as a potential creator of jobs and generator of income;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session a sub-item entitled "Cultural development", and requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to submit a further progress report on the

<sup>44</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-seventh Session, Paris, 25 October to 16 November 1993*, Vol. I, *Resolutions*, sect. III.3.

<sup>45</sup> A/49/159-E/1994/62/Add.1, annex, and Add.2, annex.

<sup>46</sup> A/49/159-E/1994/62, annex.

<sup>47</sup> E/1986/L.30, annex.