

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Declaration is widely disseminated by the competent organs and bodies of the United Nations system and to continue to ensure that its principles are incorporated in their programmes and processes, in accordance with paragraphs 32 and 42 of chapter I of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its first session.

*92nd plenary meeting  
19 December 1994*

**49/114. International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer**

*The General Assembly,*

*Considering* the urgent need to preserve the ozone layer, which filters sunlight and prevents the adverse effects of ultraviolet radiation reaching the Earth's surface, thereby preserving life on the planet,

*Highlighting* the importance of the implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, concluded at Montreal on 16 September 1987, and its subsequent amendments, and the relevant role played by the Executive Committee of its Multilateral Fund,

*Recognizing* the strong commitment shown by signatory States and States parties to the Montreal Protocol, as well as by various concerned non-governmental organizations,

1. *Proclaims* 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date in 1987 on which the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed, to be observed beginning in 1995;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps to ensure the successful observance of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer;

3. *Invites* all Member States to devote this special day to promotion, at the national level, of concrete activities in accordance with the objectives and goals of the Montreal Protocol and its amendments;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make recommendations on ways and means by which the United Nations system can, without prejudice to ongoing activities, raise and make available the necessary resources, with a view to cooperating with Member States on the organization and promotion of various activities with respect to the observance of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

*92nd plenary meeting  
19 December 1994*

**49/115. Observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the relevant provisions of chapter 12 of Agenda 21,<sup>3</sup> adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

*Considering* that the promotion of action to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,<sup>4</sup> requires public awareness at local, national, subregional, regional and international levels,

*Acknowledging* that desertification and drought are problems of global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world and that joint action by the international community is needed to combat desertification and drought, particularly in Africa,

*Recognizing* the importance and necessity of international cooperation and partnership in combating desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, adopted in Paris on 17 June 1994 by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of such a convention,

*Recognizing also* the strong commitment of the international community to implementing the Convention and its regional implementation annexes,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 17 June World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, to be observed beginning in 1995;

2. *Invites* all States to devote the World Day to promoting public awareness through the publication and diffusion of documentaries and the organization of conferences, round-table meetings, seminars and expositions relating to international cooperation to combat desertification and the effects of drought and the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, and its regional implementation annexes;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General to make recommendations on ways and means by which the Secretariat could assist Member States, upon their request, in organizing their national activities for the observance of the World Day;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to ensure the success of the observance by the United Nations of the World Day;

5. *Invites* all relevant United Nations bodies, within their mandates, and non-governmental organizations to promote World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.

*92nd plenary meeting  
19 December 1994*

**49/116. Unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas**

*The General Assembly,*

*Inviting* all members of the international community, particularly those with fishing interests, to strengthen their cooperation in the conservation and management of living marine resources in accordance with international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,<sup>5</sup>

*Recalling* Agenda 21,<sup>3</sup> adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular its chapter 17, concerning the sustainable development and conservation of the marine living resources of areas under national jurisdiction,

*Recalling also* the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,<sup>4</sup> adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in particular its chapter IV, concerning the sustainable development and conservation of the coastal and marine resources of areas under national jurisdiction,

*Noting* that, in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development<sup>20</sup> the international community recognized that the special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, should be given special priority,

*Expressing deep concern* at the detrimental impact of unauthorized fishing in zones under national jurisdiction, where the overwhelming proportion of the global fish catch is harvested, on the sustainable development of the world's fishery resources and

on the food security and economies of many States, particularly the developing countries,

*Reaffirming* the rights and duties of coastal States to ensure proper conservation and management measures with respect to the living resources in zones under their national jurisdiction, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

*Taking note* of recent discussions, at the international, regional and subregional levels, on fishery conservation and management measures, and on compliance with and enforcement thereof,

1. *Calls upon* States to take the responsibility, consistent with their obligations under international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, of taking measures to ensure that no fishing vessels entitled to fly their national flag fish in zones under the national jurisdiction of other States unless duly authorized by the competent authorities of the coastal State or States concerned; such authorized fishing operations should be carried out in accordance with the conditions set out in the authorization;

2. *Calls upon* development assistance organizations to make it a high priority to support efforts, including through financial and/or technical assistance, by the developing coastal States, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States, to improve the monitoring and control of fishing activities and the enforcement of fishing regulations;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, relevant intergovernmental organizations, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, regional and subregional fisheries bodies and relevant non-governmental organizations;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session a report on the steps taken and on problems encountered in the implementation of the present resolution, and thereafter as may be determined by the Assembly.

92nd plenary meeting  
19 December 1994

#### 49/117. Convention on Biological Diversity

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>68</sup>

*Recalling also* Agenda 21,<sup>3</sup> particularly its chapter 15, on the conservation of biological diversity, and related chapters,

*Deeply concerned* by the continuing loss of the world's biological diversity, and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reiterating the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

1. *Welcomes* the early entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Nassau from 28 November to 9 December 1994;

2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to make available the results of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention as a contribution to the work of the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

3. *Calls upon* those States which have not yet ratified the Convention to expedite their internal procedures of ratification, acceptance or approval;

4. *Decides* to consider the progress achieved in the implementation of the Convention at its fiftieth session under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", and invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention to report, through the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the results of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

92nd plenary meeting  
19 December 1994

#### 49/118. Fisheries by-catch and discards and their impact on the sustainable use of the world's living marine resources

*The General Assembly,*

*Recognizing* that in relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,<sup>69</sup> States are called upon to take into consideration, when establishing conservation and management measures for target fisheries, the effects on associated or dependent species, taking into account the best scientific evidence available,

*Recalling* that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992,<sup>72</sup> and the International Conference on Responsible Fishing, held at Cancún, Mexico, in May 1992,<sup>73</sup> agreed to promote the development and use of selective fishing gears and practices that minimized waste in the catch of target fish species and minimized by-catch of non-target fish and non-fish species,

*Recalling also* that the World Fisheries Congress, held at Athens in 1992, discussed various aspects of the fisheries discard issue,

*Noting* the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on fisheries by-catch and discards in the development of an international code of conduct for responsible fishing and the fact that the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks is considering provisions on fisheries by-catch and discards,

*Recognizing* the efforts that international organizations and members of the international community have made to reduce by-catch and discards in fishing operations and the need for continued international cooperation in this field,

*Recognizing also* that improvements in monitoring and assessing by-catch and discards and in by-catch reduction techniques continue to be necessary,

1. *Notes* the important role that fisheries play in contributing to a sustainable food supply and livelihood of present and future generations;

2. *Believes* that the issue of by-catch and discards in fishing operations warrants serious attention by the international community;

3. *Also believes* that a continued and effective response to the issue of addressing fisheries by-catch and discards is necessary so as to ensure the long-term and sustainable development of

<sup>72</sup> Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.1.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>73</sup> See A/CONF.164/INF/2, annex 2.