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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR
THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Second session
Geneva, 13-24 September 1993
Agenda item 3

ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Future work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/188, of 22 December 1992, establishing the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of a Convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994,

Recalling also decision 2/1 adopted by the Committee on 14 September 1993, in particular para 1.c thereof,

Recognizing that, in view of the complexity of the problems relating to desertification, and of the particular conditions affecting each region, an effective Convention to combat desertification requires elaboration of instruments adapted to the specific needs of each region,

I

1. Decides to recommend for adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session a resolution on the future work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, aimed at enabling provisional voluntary implementation of the Convention, prompt finalization of additional regional instruments and an efficient preparation of the entry into force of the Convention;

2. Recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to make appropriate arrangements to enable the ad hoc Secretariat established pursuant to resolution 47/188, of 22 December 1992, to continue to function until the adoption of the Convention and to function as the interim Secretariat of the Convention during the interim period beginning with the opening of the Convention for signature and ending with the completion of the first Conference of the Parties, and also be requested to make provisions for this purpose, including additional resources within the current and forthcoming programme budgets;

3. Takes note of the contributions of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the United Nations Environment Program, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant international organizations dealing with desertification, drought and development to its work and recommends that they be invited to continue to provide such support;

4. Further takes note of the work of the multidisciplinary panel of experts under the authority of the ad hoc Secretariat, and recommends that its mandate be extended to enable it to continue to provide the necessary expertise in the scientific, technical, legal and other related fields until the first meeting of the Conference of Parties, making full use of the resources and expertise within and available to Governments and organizations of the United Nations system dealing with drought and desertification;

5. Recommends that the negotiation process continue to be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to the trust fund established pursuant to its resolution 47/188 specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations and administered by the head of the ad hoc Secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General, with the possibility of carrying over resources contributed from one fiscal year to the other;

6. Takes note with appreciation of the initial contributions made to the trust fund and recommends that Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, be invited to provide additional funding in 1994 and 1995, or until the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

7. Takes note with appreciation of the contributions made to the special voluntary fund established pursuant to its resolution 47/188 to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the negotiation process, and recommends that Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, be invited to contribute additional and timely funding to ensure adequate support for the participation of developing countries in the continued process until the first meeting of the Conference of Parties, with the possibility of carrying over contributions from one fiscal year to the other;

8. Further takes note of the arrangements made by the Secretary-General and of the welcome support of relevant or interested organizations, organs, programmes and concerned agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental, sub-regional and regional organizations in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and recommends that they be invited to continue to participate in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in the future;

9. Further recommends that Governments be invited to continue to organize, in close collaboration with the regional commissions and national, sub-regional and regional organizations, activities to support the process of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, involving the scientific and industrial communities, trade unions, the relevant non-governmental organizations and other interested groups;

10. Takes note of the assistance provided by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to the countries covered under its mandate in their preparations for and participation in the negotiating process and recommends that the Office be invited to continue to support the governments concerned in the provisional implementation of the Convention and the instrument on Africa, and to continue to mobilize resources for this purpose;

11. Further takes note of the constructive contribution of relevant non-governmental organizations to the success of the negotiating process, and recommends that they be encouraged, particularly non-governmental organizations from developing countries, to continue to contribute to the success of the negotiating process and to the provisional implementation of the Convention;

II

12. Decides to establish at its third session a preliminary programme of work for the interim period, as appropriate, and requests the Secretariat to take the necessary steps to ensure that sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee could be held in December 1994, April/May 1995 and August 1995;

III

13. Requests the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the Commission on Sustainable Development and other appropriate bodies on the progress of the negotiations and to draw the present resolution to the attention of the Secretary-General.