

Compendium Of Legislative Authority

VOL. 1 SUPPLEMENT 1, 1978

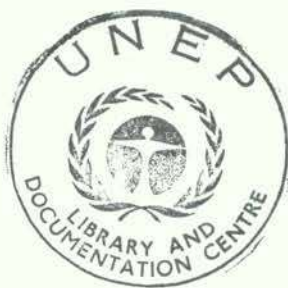


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UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

COMPENDIUM
OF
LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Volume 1, Supplement 1, 1978



Decisions of the Governing Council (Report of the Governing Council on the work of its sixth session, 9-25 May 1978; United Nations General Assembly, official records, thirty-third session, supplement No. 25 (A/33/25). 1

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Decisions of the Governing Council of the
United Nations Environment Programme at
its sixth session

6/1. Programme policy and implementation

The Governing Council,

Reaffirming its previous decisions on programme policy and implementation, 1/

Taking fully into account General Assembly resolutions 32/168 of 19 December 1977 on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its fifth session, 32/162 of 19 December 1977 on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements, 32/172 of 19 December 1977 on the United Nations Conference on Desertification, 32/174 of 19 December 1977 on the assessment of progress in the establishment of the new international economic order, 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, 32/206 of 21 December 1977 on the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and 32/88 of 12 December 1977 on the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions of the Assembly at its thirty-second session and the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session, 2/

Having considered:

- (a) The introductory statement of the Executive Director, 3/
- (b) The introductory report of the Executive Director, 4/
- (c) The report of the Executive Director on the state of the environment 1978, 5/
- (d) The reports of the Environment Co-ordination Board on its seventh and eighth sessions, 6/ and the agreed memoranda of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and co-operating agencies of the environment programme, 7/

1/ Decisions I (I), 5 (II), 20 (III), 47 (IV) and 82 (V).

2/ UNEP/GC.6/3.

3/ UNEP/GC.6/L.1.

4/ UNEP/GC.6/2.

5/ UNEP/GC.6/4.

6/ UNEP/GC.6/5 and Add.1.

7/ UNEP/GC/INFORMATION/6 and Add.1.

Taking into consideration the views expressed during its sixth session on questions of programme policy and implementation,

Having special regard to its decisions on programme and fund programme activities and on the management of the Environment Fund, 8/

1

Environmental considerations in the establishment of
the new international economic order and in a new
international development strategy

1. Notes that the General Assembly decided 9/ to convene a special session in 1980, at a high level, in order to assess the progress made in the various forums of the United Nations system in the establishment of the new international economic order and, on the basis of that assessment, to take appropriate action for the promotion of the development of developing countries and international economic co-operation, including the adoption of the new international development strategy for the 1980s;

2. Notes also that the General Assembly established a committee of the whole, which is meeting, as and when required, during the inter-sessional periods until the special session in 1980;

3. Notes further that the General Assembly stressed the need for ensuring that environmental considerations are taken into account in development programmes in differing socio-economic settings, in the establishment of the new international economic order and in the formulation of the new international development strategy;

4. Welcomes these decisions of the General Assembly as providing an opportunity for tackling the problems of development within a framework which takes full account of environmental considerations;

5. Reaffirms that environmental considerations are not in conflict with the development process, but rather ensure the sustainability of development, and considers that sustainability should be a criterion of any new development strategy, which should take account of the inter-related nature of population, resources, environment and development, and set out harmonized objectives which meet the aspirations of man for the fulfilment of his basic needs on the one hand and foster his opportunities for a better quality of life on the other;

8/ Decision 6/13, D and E of 24 May 1978.

9/ Resolution 32/174 of 19 December 1977.

✓ 6. Urges Governments, in their participation in the process of preparation for the 1980 special session of the General Assembly, to stress the need to take environmental considerations fully into account;

7. Considers that the results of the regional seminars on alternative lifestyles and patterns of development being held by the United Nations Environment Programme in co-operation with the regional commissions, 10/ and the continued work on ecodevelopment, 11/ should be taken into account in the Programme's preparation for the special session of the General Assembly;

✓ 8. Requests the Executive Director to participate effectively in the process of preparation for the special session of the General Assembly in 1980, taking the requisite steps to this end, including as necessary the strengthening of work at the regional level, to collaborate with other organizations concerned within the United Nations system and with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, and to keep the Governing Council informed at each session of the results of his endeavours;

II

Co-ordination

Medium-term environment programme

1. Endorses the Executive Director's proposals 12/ regarding the development of a systemwide medium-term environment programme;

2. Considers that these proposals are in line with the decisions of the General Assembly contained in section VI - Planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation - of the annex to its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system;

3. Notes with satisfaction the intention of the Executive Director 13/ to consult with the executive heads of the co-operating agencies on the steps to be taken in regard to the establishment of the medium-term environment programme, and to report on the results of his consultations to the Governing Council at its seventh session;

10/ UNEP/GC.6/7, para. 90.

11/ Ibid., paras. 88 and 89.

12/ UNEP/GC.6/2, paras. 6-13.

13/ See para. 120 of the present report.

✓ 4. Requests the Executive Director to continue to stress thematic joint programming exercises with the co-operating agencies, which it considers of great importance to the preparation of the medium-term programme, and to ensure that the co-operative activities developed with the members of the United Nations system in the context of the programme of the Environment Fund are based on the results of joint programming and thematic joint programming;

Environment Co-ordination Board

5. Expresses appreciation of the way in which the Environment Co-ordination Board has discharged its co-ordinating responsibilities, particularly with respect to the implementation of Earthwatch, joint programming, thematic joint programming, and the study of the major impacts on the environment resulting from operational field projects supported by Board members;

6. Notes with satisfaction the statement by the Executive Director ^{14/} the the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, at its special session at Geneva on 20 May 1978, decided to report to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fifth session that the merger of the Board with the Administrative Committee has been effected, and that the Administrative Committee is thus to assume the functions of the Board set out in General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and 32/172 of 19 December 1977, including, inter alia, that of annual reporting to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in accordance with the two resolutions;

7. Further notes that the Executive Director of the Programme will assume responsibility for the preparatory process for the discharge by the Administrative Committee of these functions, in consultation as necessary with other interested executive heads;

8. Welcomes the assumption by the Administrative Committee of responsibility for the functions of the Board;

✓ 9. Urges the Executive Director to ensure that the preparatory process meets the requirements articulated by the Governing Council in its discussions at this and previous sessions, and involves appropriate consultations with designated officials of the members of the United Nations system;

^{14/} See para. 124 of the present report.

Progress report to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 32/197.

10. Requests the Executive Director to communicate to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, as the progress report required of the Governing Council under paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, any relevant sections of the present decision, including in particular those on interagency co-ordination, together with relevant parts of the report of the Governing Council on the work of its sixth session and of the Executive Director's reports to the Council at that session;

III

Disarmament

1. Notes that the General Assembly has decided 15/ to meet between 23 May and 28 June 1978 in a special session devoted to disarmament;

2. Considers that the environmental consequences of the arms race, including weapons with harmful impacts for present and future generations and irreversible deterioration of the environment, should be brought to the attention of the General Assembly, and acknowledges the intention of the Executive Director 16/ to address the General Assembly at its special session;

IV

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

1. Notes the decision by the General Assembly 17/ that there should be close links between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. Welcomes the support and co-operation pledged by the Executive Director 18/ to the new Centre;

3. Urges the Executive Director to establish the closest possible links with the Centre;

15/ Resolution 32/88 of 12 December 1977.

16/ See para. 102 of the present report.

17/ Resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977.

18/ UNEP/GC.6/L.I.

V

Cycle of in-depth presentations to the Governing Council and subjects for the state of the environment report for 1979

- ✓ 1. Approves the cycle of in-depth presentations suggested by the Executive Director in his introductory report; 19/
- ✓ 2. Approves also the subjects suggested by the Executive Director therein for the state of the environment report for presentation to the Governing Council at its seventh session; 20/
3. Welcomes the efforts of the Executive Director to secure more resources from external sources for the quinquennial state of the environment report "Ten years after Stockholm";

VI

Approval of projects

1. Recalls that at its fifth session 21/ it requested the Executive Director to conduct consultations with Governments on the procedures for the approval of projects, and notes the report thereon 22/ submitted by the Executive Director to the Governing Council at its sixth session;
2. Holds the view that the existing procedures for the approval of projects, with the Executive Director submitting to the Council projects which require its consideration because of their magnitude or their policy implications, should be maintained;

VII

Goals for 1982

1. Recalls the approval by the Governing Council at its fifth session 23/ of the twenty-one goals for 1982;
2. Recommends that the progress towards the achievement of the goals be examined by the Governing Council at its seventh session;

19/ UNEP/GC.6/2, para. 35.

20/ Ibid., para. 37.

21/ Decision 82 (V), sect. II, para. 3.

22/ UNEP/GC.6/2/Add.1 and SUPPLEMENT.

23/ Decision 82 (V), sect. VI, para. 1.

Periodicity and duration of Governing
Council sessions

✓ Requests the Executive Director to study the question of the periodicity and duration of sessions of the Governing Council with a view to outlining the implications of the various alternatives, taking into consideration the discussions of the matter at the sixth session and additional views obtained from Governments, and to present the results of this study to the Informal consultations with Governments in January 1979 in order that relevant recommendations may be prepared for submission to the Governing Council at its seventh session.

15th meeting
24 May 1978

6/2. Programme matters

The Governing Council,

Having considered the Executive Director's report on the environment programme, 24/

I

1. Notes with approval the efforts of the Executive Director to improve the presentation of the programme, and in particular the response to the Governing Council's request for a report in detail on selected programme topics; 25/

2. Notes with satisfaction the contributions made by organizations within and outside the United Nations system to improving the content of the programme document;

3. Urges the Executive Director further to improve the quality of future programme documents in line with the agreed principles; 26/

4. Calls upon organizations of the United Nations system, Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to assist the Executive Director in preparing the programme document, and in particular calls upon United Nations organizations to contribute concrete budgetary data regarding their plans;

II

1. Approves the Executive Director's proposals to amend the objectives and strategies for:

(a) The International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals; 27/

(b) Soils; 28/

(c) The regional seas programme; 29/

and to amend the strategies for:

(d) Health of people and of the environment; 30/

24/ UNEP/GC.6/7 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

25/ Decision 82 (V), sect. II, para. 1.

26/ See para. 286 of the present report.

27/ UNEP/GC.6/7, para. 193.

28/ Ibid., para. 296.

29/ Ibid., para. 396.

30/ Ibid., para. 237.

(e) Water; 31/

(f) Integrated approach to environment and development; 32/

✓ 2. Approves also the Executive Director's proposals to amend the objectives and strategies for arid and semi-arid lands ecosystems, 33/ subject to the following additional amendments being made to the approved objectives and strategy: 34/

(a) Objective (iii) to read: To improve water availability and quality and animal production in these ecological systems;

(b) Strategy element (i) to read: Collaboration with various agencies in the improvement of water quantity and quality, and its ecological management in arid and semi-arid lands;

✓ 3. Decides to adopt the revised objectives for water and objectives and strategies for environmental training and for environmental education contained in the annex to the present decision;

✓ 4. Approves the additional activities recommended for support from the Environment Fund;

5. Endorses the activities and associated actions which have been taken or are proposed in the Executive Director's report on the environment programme, subject to any modifications or amendments implied in other decisions taken by the Council on parts of the programme;

✓ 6. Requests the Executive Director, in implementing the programme, to take into account the views expressed by the Governing Council in the course of its consideration of the environment programme.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

ANNEX

Revised objectives for Water

(a) To develop and promote the application of integrated and environmentally sound management techniques for the conservation and utilization of water resources in harmony with other natural resources;

(b) To promote the development of co-operative and co-ordinated management techniques for water resources;

(c) To promote the development and application of integrated and environmentally sound water supply and sanitation techniques for rural and urban poor populations;

31/ Ibid., para. 324.

32/ Ibid., para. 85.

33/ Ibid., para. 270.

34/ Ibid., para. 244.

(d) To support efforts to ensure the provision of safe water supplies to all peoples by 1990;

(e) To promote the development and application of methods for assessing water quality and for arresting and correcting unsatisfactory conditions;

(f) To promote the development of training, education and public information programmes in the field of water resources management.

Revised objectives and strategy for
Environmental education

(a) Objectives:

- (i) To effect a rapid and systematic development of environmental education on a global basis;
- (ii) To develop and support programmes in education to create environmental awareness at policy and decision-making levels, in the public and private sectors, in all aspects of development;
- (iii) To provide opportunities, through the necessary education, for all countries to participate in appropriate parts of the environment programme in an informed manner as equal partners;
- (iv) To assist in the establishment of education systems which will help Governments to include the environmental dimension in policies, programmes and projects;
- (v) To stimulate the rapid development of non-formal education for urban and rural populations;

(b) Summary of strategy:

- (i) On the basis of an interagency thematic joint programming meeting on the follow-up to Tbilisi, convened under the auspices of the Environment Co-ordination Board, the joint development of a comprehensive programme for environmental education within the United Nations system, and agreement on the mechanisms for continuing interagency co-ordination in this area;
- (ii) Identification of suitable environmental materials in the State of Environment reports, and other sources of scientific information, for incorporation into appropriate educational programmes through curriculum/instructional materials;
- (iii) Orientation for officials, planners, decision-makers, specialists and other groups;
- (iv) Stimulation of education and research through institutions of excellence, regional programmes (seminars, symposia), etc.;
- (v) Activities relating to the development of new curricula, teaching materials, information systems, etc.;

- (vi) Development of instruments such as fellowships, institutional linkages, funding and, on an experimental basis, a programme activity centre for environmental education and training;
- (vii) Development of mass non-formal education programmes for urban and rural populations.

Revised objectives and strategy for
Environmental training

(a) Objectives:

- (i) To ensure that decision-makers involved in areas which affect the environment, directly or indirectly, are provided with an appropriate level of understanding of the environmental dimension;
- (ii) To provide the specialized training necessary for technicians and specialists involved in various tasks associated with environmental assessment and environmental management;
- (iii) To work towards more environmental awareness among rural and urban populations;
- (iv) To create and maintain appropriate mechanisms for the effective co-ordination of environmental training programmes;

(b) Summary of strategy:

- (i) Training in specific areas of policy, programming and implementation of national and regional development plans for officials, planners, decision-makers, specialists and other groups;
- (ii) Identification of environmental elements in various professional actions for incorporation into appropriate training programmes through curriculum/instructional materials;
- (iii) Development of and support for programmes incorporating the environmental dimension in the technical training of professional groups whose work affects the environment directly or indirectly;
- (iv) Development and support for environmentally-oriented professional training programmes for teachers at all levels, educational administrators, inspectors of schools, and others engaged in education, from the primary level, and public information;
- (v) Stimulation of specialized training through institutions of excellence and regional and international programmes (workshops, seminars, etc.);
- (vi) Development of instruments such as fellowships, institutional linkages, funding and, on an experimental basis, a programme activity centre for environmental education and training;
- (vii) Encouragement to, and support for, the development of vocational training programmes and their implementation at appropriate levels among rural and urban populations;

(viii) Continuing contact and interaction with the various agents and institutions of environmental training to facilitate effective co-ordination;

(ix) Provision of regular refresher courses for specialists and technicians to keep them abreast of advances in knowledge.

Note: Implementing the above strategy, special consideration will be given to the needs of developing countries and the provision of appropriate technical assistance.

6/3. Environmental assessment: Earthwatch

A

International Referral System

The Governing Council,

Having considered the progress report of the Executive Director on the International Referral System for sources of environmental information, 35/

Reaffirming its previous decisions regarding the development of the System, 36/

Recognizing that the System is now fully operational and capable of rendering valuable service in the area of exchange of environmental information,

Bearing in mind the ever greater demands for environmental information at present and in the years to come, and the importance of information for environmentally sound development,

Further recognizing the potential built into the System for catalysing and co-ordinating environmental information transferred at the national and international levels,

Appreciating the continuing efforts of Governments, United Nations organizations, other intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations which have taken part in the System,

1. Notes with satisfaction the endeavours and the progress made in the development of the International Referral System for sources of environmental information,

2. Endorses the activities and associated actions which have been proposed in the Executive Director's progress report, particularly for assisting Governments and focal points in building the user community of the System;

3. Further endorses:

(a) The existing concept of the System as a co-operative and decentralized network with the United Nations Environment Programme playing a co-ordinating role;

(b) The catalytic role played by the System in the development of national information systems in general, and environmental information systems in particular, especially developing countries;

4. Reiterates its invitation to all Governments, United Nations organizations, other intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations to undertake activities aimed at further developing and strengthening their capabilities for participating fully in the development, operation and evaluation of the International Referral System network;

35/ UNEP/GC/INFORMATION/7.

36/ Decisions I (I) of 22 June 1973, sect. VII (2); 8 A (II) of 22 March 1974, sect. II.1 (b); 29 (III) of 2 May 1975, para. 9 (i); 47 (IV) of 14 April 1976, sect. I. para. 11; and 83 (V) of 25 May 1977, sect. III. para. 1.

✓ 5. Requests the Executive Director to provide, on the basis of close consultation with Governments and other partners in the System, adequate technical assistance and training within the resources available to the Executive Director in order to ensure full participation of developing countries in the System;

✓ 6. Requests the Executive Director to undertake studies of the information needs of users in each region, and to involve the regional offices of the Programme fully in this effort;

✓ 7. Further requests the Executive Director to investigate means of strengthening the capabilities of the System to facilitate the delivery of information specially relevant to the needs of developing countries, and to report on this issue to the Governing Council at its seventh session;

✓ 8. Urges Governments and all focal points to promote awareness of the role and importance of information in environmental decision-making, and in particular of the services provided by the System, with a view to promoting its use;

9. Stresses the importance of strengthening those features of the System most relevant to its role in the development process, and to improving linkages with development-oriented information systems and services such as those dealing with technical co-operation among developing countries and science and technology;

✓ 10. Requests Governments to assist the Executive Director in preparing the evaluation of the International Referral System for presentation to the Governing Council in 1981.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

B

International Register of Potentially
Toxic Chemicals

The Governing Council,

Recalling the recommendation of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment 37/ that plans be developed for an International Registry of Data on Chemicals in the Environment;

Recalling further its decisions 8 A (II) of 22 March 1974, section I, paragraph 1 (K), 29 (III) of 2 May 1975, paragraph 8, 50 (IV) of 13 April 1976, 52 (IV) of 13 April 1976 and 82 (V) of 25 May 1977 on the development of the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals,

Having considered the Executive Director's report on chemicals in the environment 38/ and his in-depth review of the Register, 39/

37/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. I, recommendation 74 (a).

38/ UNEP/GC.6/4.

39/ UNEP/GC.6/7, paras. 161-198.

Recognizing the constraints on the efforts to make the Register fully operational through its programme activity centre, as reflected in the in-depth review, 40/

Appreciating the continuing efforts of the Executive Director to improve the current situation by amending the previously approved objectives and strategies for the Register, 41/

Appreciating further the proposed activities of the United Nations Environment Programme for the realization in stages of its strategies to attain the 1982 goal for the Register,

Recognizing the considerable difficulties most of the developing countries have to cope with in their efforts to contribute to the success of the Register,

1. Notes the importance of wide dissemination of information on potentially toxic chemicals;

2. Calls upon the Executive Director to ensure that the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals will, upon request and as appropriate, facilitate access to available information by national institutions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations of standing;

3. Invites Member States to improve their national mechanisms, in terms of personnel, facilities and organization, so as to enhance the capability of the Register to fulfil its task efficiently and effectively;

✓ 4. Urges the Executive Director to intensify his efforts to increase the number of national correspondents of the Register, and urges Governments to respond positively in this respect;

✓ 5. Further urges the Executive Director to provide, within available resources, assistance to developing countries by organizing workshops to familiarize them with the use of the Register;

✓ 6. Requests the Executive Director to give priority to providing countries with information on legal and administrative limitations, bans and regulations placed on potentially toxic chemicals in the producing countries;

✓ 7. Further requests the Executive Director to intensify the dissemination of information covered by the Register.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

40/ UNEP/GC.6/7, para. 192.

41/ Ibid., para. 193.

6/4. Health of people and of the environment

The Governing Council,

Strongly reaffirming the provisions of its decisions 53 (IV) of 13 April 1976 and 85 (V) of 25 May 1977, and in particular those contained in its paragraph 2 of the latter,

Noting the repeated occurrence of effects harmful to the health of people and of the environment caused by lack of awareness of the risks associated with potentially harmful chemicals,

Noting further the need for strong and effective measures in all countries to ensure protection against such risks,

1. Appeals to the countries exporting potentially harmful chemicals, in whatever form or commodity, to prevent the export of items which are restricted, or not registered for use, in the countries of origin until the exporting countries have ascertained that the results of tests and evaluations on the effects of these chemicals on the health of people and the environment (as well as detailed instructions in mutually agreed languages for the safe use of these products) have been provided to the designated authorities in the recipient countries, so as to make it possible for these authorities to make fully informed decisions on the import and utilization of the products;

2. Further appeals to the Governments of recipient countries to take appropriate measures to strengthen the capabilities of the authorities designated to make the decisions referred to in paragraph 1 above;

3. Calls upon the Governments of both exporting and recipient countries to institute adequate monitoring, evaluative and protective measures in this regard;

✓ 4. Requests the Executive Director to explore ways and means of assisting recipient countries in instituting the measures referred to in paragraph 3 above, and in finding solutions to problems involving potentially harmful chemicals including the provision of information on alternatives for their use.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

6/5. Terrestrial ecosystems

A

Ecothèque méditerranéenne

The Governing Council,

Considering the particular pressure to which the fragile ecosystems of regions with a Mediterranean climate are subject, and the need to halt their degradation,

Recognizing the importance of systematic exchange of information on knowledge and experience gained in this respect,

Considering also the efforts already undertaken within the framework of the Ecothèque méditerranéenne at Montpellier to compile, process and disseminate ecological phytosociological and cartographic data on the rational management of Mediterranean ecosystems,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, as well as the recommendations of the International Co-ordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere concerning the dissemination and more effective utilization of this documentation,

Requests the Executive Director to discuss with the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ways and means of:

(a) Contributing to the strengthening of the compilation and processing of data by the Ecothèque méditerranéenne;

(b) Promoting the regionalization of its operation for the benefit of all countries concerned;

(c) Ensuring the conduct of training activities for specialists from these countries with a view to the effective utilization of this information;

(d) Considering support for the establishment by the countries concerned of national ecological documentation units linked with the Ecothèque méditerranéenne.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

B

Humid tropical forest ecosystems of
the African continent

The Governing Council,

Considering that forest resources are of great value to the environment and the economy of the African countries located in the humid tropical regions,

Noting that tropical woodlands and forests are subject to degradation resulting essentially from an irrational management of their ecosystems which leads to their intensive and excessive exploitation,

Recalling that such irrational exploitation has already largely contributed to an impoverishment of the natural resource potential of the humid tropical ecosystems, with detrimental effects on the economies of the countries concerned, which remain largely dependent on this natural wealth,

Considering that the rational management of forest resources constitutes a priority concern of the environment programme,

Expressing its appreciation of the efforts already made to this end by the Government of the United Republic of Cameroon and by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

✓ Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To continue to attach great importance to questions of information and documentation in the field of the ecology of the humid tropical regions;

(b) In line with the efforts already made by the United Nations Environment Programme and by the Programme on Man and the Biosphere of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in organizing a regional meeting of the countries of the humid tropics on this subject at Kinshasa in 1975, to consider, in consultation with the other United Nations agencies concerned, contributing to the establishment of the regional centre for documentation and information on humid tropical ecology, as recommended by that meeting;

(c) To support and encourage the efforts of non-governmental and private organizations which could contribute to furthering this initiative, designed to ensure the rational management of the resources of humid tropical forest ecosystems.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

C

Soils policy

The Governing Council,

Considering that the United Nations Conference on Desertification recommended to Member States the adoption of a soils policy,

Bearing in mind that the Conference decided that world action against desertification and soil degradation should be directed not only towards combating these processes, but also to preventing and controlling the factors which cause them,

Decides that:

(a) The United Nations Environment Programme, in close co-operation with other United Nations agencies and organizations engaged in soil conservation activities, shall advise the countries affected by soil erosion and degradation in the planning and adoption of a soils policy forming part of economic and social development plans, and that to this end guidelines shall be prepared covering the general aspects of the management of soils in the light of their nature;

(b) Such guidelines shall be used by States that so desire to conduct studies and plans designed to modernize the legislation and administrative and socio-economic structures relating to soil conservation and rehabilitation.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

D

Secretariat of the Convention on International
Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and
Flora

The Governing Council,

Noting that article XII of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora states that the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme shall provide a secretariat for the Convention,

Recalling its decision 86 C (V) of 25 May 1977 to the effect that adequate means are essential for the proper implementation of the Convention,

Noting with satisfaction that 45 States are now Parties to the Convention, and that more will soon ratify or accede to it,

Considering that the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be held next year in Costa Rica,

Recognizing that open-ended commitments of monies from the Environment Fund for administrative responsibilities are inconsistent with the catalytic role of the Programme,

✓ 1. Requests that a contribution of \$700,000 from the Environment Fund be made to the budget of the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade In Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora for the biennium 1978-1979;

✓ 2. Further requests that the costs of the second meeting, and of no subsequent meetings, of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention should be met by contributions from the Environment Fund;

3. Calls upon the Conference of the Parties, in co-operation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to establish at its second meeting an arrangement for sharing the administrative costs of the secretariat and for the gradual reduction and cessation at the earliest possible date, and no later than the end of 1983, of Fund contributions to such costs;

4. Invites the Parties to the Convention to submit to the United Nations Environment Programme from time to time proposals for research and other projects which would assist in the effective implementation of the Convention.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

6/6. Environment and development

A

Programme and policy considerations

The Governing Council,

Noting with satisfaction General Assembly resolution 32/168 of 19 December 1977, which stresses the need to take account of environmental considerations in implementing the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, contained in Assembly resolution 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, and in the formulation of the new International development strategy, and noting further that this is a reflection of the seriousness with which the States Members of the United Nations accept the need to incorporate environmentally sound approaches effectively into national and international strategies for development,

Noting with approval the work undertaken and being planned by the Executive Director in promoting the understanding of environment-development relationships, in helping to develop tools and methodologies aimed at assisting environmentally sound planning and decision-making, and in encouraging practical experiments and pilot projects,

Reiterating its long-held view that solutions and approaches to environmental problems will vary between countries, depending on their levels of development, socio-economic structures and environmental characteristics,

1. Calls upon the United Nations system and Governments to intensify efforts towards defining ways and means, and concrete action programmes, for effectively incorporating the environmental dimension into development strategies, plans and actions, as well as towards taking full account of development priorities and objectives in their environmental activities;

2. Invites the General Assembly to request its Committee Established under General Assembly resolution 32/174, and other United Nations organizations and bodies involved in the preparation of the new International development strategy, to take full account in their work of environment-development concerns, and decides to consider at its seventh session, during the in-depth discussion of environment and development, the inputs of the United Nations Environment Programme into the preparations of the new International development strategy and into the 1980 special session of the General Assembly on the new International economic order;

3. Invites Governments and International organizations to participate in the preparation, proceedings and follow-up of the regional seminars on alternative patterns of development and life styles, sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme and the regional commissions of the United Nations, and recommends that the results of these seminars serve inter alia as an input into the formulation of the International development strategy for the 1980s and beyond;

4. Notes the importance of technical and economic co-operation among developing countries for finding appropriate solutions to environmental problems, and urges Governments and international organizations in participating in future activities in this area, including the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, to come forward with concrete recommendations for joint programmes and for the exchange of experience and know-how among developing countries on environment-development matters;

5. Calls upon the Executive Director to continue to participate with relevant international organizations, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Labour Organisation, in contributing to the incorporation of the environmental dimension in ongoing work directed towards global redeployment of industry, in response to one of the strategies contained in the Declaration adopted by the Second General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; 42/

✓ 6. Requests the Executive Director to accord high priority to the implementation of Governing Council decision 87 A (V) of 25 May 1977, regarding industry and the environment, and to report to the Governing Council at its seventh session on the steps taken and planned in this respect, indicating in particular the relationship of these steps to the environment and development subject area as a whole;

7. Welcomes the existing and proposed studies of the extent to which environmental factors are taken into account in bilateral and multilateral development assistance, undertaken with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme and others, 43/ and calls upon all Governments, as well as the bilateral and multilateral aid institutions concerned, to participate fully in, and bring the necessary resources to bear on, devising effective means for assessing the environmental impact of development activities, so as to ensure that these activities are environmentally sound;

8. Notes also the study being undertaken under the auspices of the Environment Co-ordination Board 44/ on the environmental impact of the activities of Board members, and requests the Executive Director to inform the Governing Council at its seventh session on progress in this respect;

9. Invites the Executive Director to consider convening, during 1979, an expert meeting to review the outcome of the studies referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8 above, with the purpose of encouraging bilateral, multilateral and international development assistance agencies to make wider and more systematic use of methodologies to introduce environmental considerations into their development policies, programmes and projects at the earliest possible stage and to the fullest possible extent;

42/ See A/10112, chap. IV.

43/ UNEP/GC.6/7, para. 91.

44/ Ibid., para. 92.

10. Requests the Executive Director, within the network of appropriate technology institutions, 45/ to initiate and assign high priority to stimulating practical activities for the development and promotion of appropriate and environmentally sound technologies;

✓ 11. Urges the Executive Director to use the proposed network on environmentally sound and appropriate technologies, including human settlements technologies, the International Referral System, and other activities within the programme, in order to participate in the search for and dissemination of information about environmentally sound and appropriate technologies, and to increase the opportunities available to inventors and innovative technicians to develop and disseminate their inventions;

✓ 12. Underlines the importance of practical experiments, particularly ecodevelopment pilot projects, and recommends that such projects be carried out at the national level, in both developed and developing countries, to help evolve concrete approaches to environmentally and socially sound development and taking into account the importance of public participation;

13. Commends the Executive Director for having performed a catalytic role in the launching of two pilot ecodevelopment projects, and requests him to continue his work in promoting and supporting more such projects, with clear demonstration effects and on a balanced geographical basis, in assisting the exchange of information and experience among them, and in disseminating the information obtained with the aim of developing an integrated programme in ecodevelopment.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

B

Funding of environment and development
activities

The Governing Council,

Noting that the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in relation to environment-development can have a significant catalytic and policy impact,

Noting further the reduced allocation for the environment and development budget line approved by the Governing Council at its fifth session 46/ for the biennium 1978-1979 as against that previously approved by the Council at its third session 47/ for the biennium 1976-1977, and the reduction in the approved allocation for 1979 as against that for 1978,

45/ Ibid., para. 99.

46/ Decision 98 B (V) of 24 May 1977.

47/ Decision 36 (III) of 23 April 1975.

Considering that, in order to make possible the implementation of planned environment-development activities, it will be necessary by 1980 to re-establish the allocations for this budget line at levels at least commensurate with those prior to the fifth session of the Governing Council,

1. Calls upon Governments and bilateral and multilateral development assistance institutions to support pilot projects and practical activities in environment and development;

2. Recommends that, since small projects can play a very useful role in this area, the Executive Director should make wider and more effective use of such projects;

3. Decides that for the year 1979 the environment-development budget line should be increased by \$450,000 (from reappropriation) to \$1,650,000 and that the order of priority for allocations should be as follows:

(a) Integrated approach to environment and development, including ecodevelopment;

(b) Environmentally sound and appropriate technologies;

(c) Industry and environment;

(d) Use of natural resources;

4. Calls upon the Executive Director, in preparing proposed allocations for the biennium 1980-1981 for submission to the Governing Council at its seventh session, to propose the continued increases required in the allocation for the environment and development budget line which are expected to arise from increased activities in this important area, including preparations for and follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly in 1980 to assess the progress in the establishment of the new international economic order;

5. Requests the Executive Director, invites international organizations and appeals to all countries to formulate and implement appropriate programmes and projects in the field of environment and development with a view to achieving the objectives of this programme area.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

C

Improvement of the working environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 87 B (V) of 25 May 1977 calling on the Executive Director to develop, in co-operation with the International Labour Organisation and other international organizations concerned, a coherent programme for the improvement of the working environment,

Noting with satisfaction the preliminary steps taken by the Executive Director to give effect to this decision, as set forth in paragraph 22 of his report on developments in the environment programme during the period February to April 1978, 48/

Recognizing that enhanced productive effort and a better working environment must play a vital role in the establishment of a new international economic order and in the formulation of the new International development strategy,

1. Invites the Executive Director to pursue his efforts in this direction by promoting, through thematic joint programming, a co-ordinated programme of the United Nations system for the improvement of the working environment of workers in industry and agriculture and of their living conditions in relation to their work;

2. Urges the Executive Director to provide assistance to developing countries in strengthening their technical and administrative capabilities to apply effectively international labour conventions and recommendations for the protection of the working environment;

3. Requests the Executive Director to intensify activities during the biennium 1978-1979 for the improvement of the working environment.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

6/7. Oceans

A

Marine pollution

The Governing Council,

Concerned at the increasing frequency and extent of accidents causing pollution of the marine environment, recently exemplified by the unprecedented "Amoco Cadiz" disaster,

Mindful of the need to avoid the recurrence of such disasters, which have harmful consequences on the coastal marine environment and the human environment in general,

Invites the General Assembly to consider for adoption the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Mindful of the grave dangers posed to the marine environment by the shipping of oil and other dangerous substances,

"Regretting that the various measures to ensure the safety of navigation by the observance of the existing international regulations are not applied stringently by all Member States,

"Considering that the conservation of the marine environment represents a basic objective for mankind,

✓ "1. Urges that the competent international institutions and organizations, such as the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, expedite and intensify their activities relating to the prevention of pollution and the determination of responsibilities in this matter;

"2. Calls upon States Parties to the 1954 Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil to discharge fully their obligations under the Convention and in particular to ensure that national legislation adopted is sufficiently stringent to have a genuine deterrent effect;

✓ "3. Urges Member States to examine the possibility of ratifying at the earliest opportunity international conventions designed to ensure better protection of the marine environment and improve the safety of navigation (ILO Convention No. 147 of 1976, the 1972 Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, the 1973 Convention for the Prevention of Pollution by Ships and the 1974 Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, among others);

✓ "4. Urges all States to co-operate in order to implement material measures for the effective combating of marine pollution."

B

Regional seas programme: the Mediterranean

The Governing Council,

Considering that the successful achievements of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of protection of the environment in the Mediterranean region afford a concrete example of both the integrated approach and the proper co-ordinating role that should be the major concern of the Programme in its activities,

Considering that the experience gained during the preparation and implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan should be useful in other regional seas programmes,

Recalling its observations, in its decision 50 (IV) of 13 April 1976 on programme and Fund programme activities, on the need for the progressive transfer of executive responsibility for the Mediterranean Action Plan to the Governments of the region,

Taking into account the report of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States on the Mediterranean Action Plan,

Recognizing, however, that open-ended commitments of monies from the Environment Fund for administrative responsibilities are inconsistent with the catalytic role of the Programme,

1. Calls upon the Mediterranean coastal States involved in the Mediterranean Action Plan to take increasing financial responsibility for the secretariat costs, with the objective of assuming full financial responsibility for such costs at the earliest possible date, and no later than the end of 1983;
2. Invites, nevertheless, the Mediterranean coastal States to submit to the Environment Fund proposals for research and other projects which would assist in the effective implementation of the Plan;
3. Urges the Executive Director to seek ways of supplementing the Oceans budget line from within existing resources, to meet the legitimate requests of various regional seas programmes.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

6/8. International Centre for Training and Education in
Environmental Sciences

The Governing Council,

Considering that the International Centre for Training and Education in Environmental Sciences for Spanish-speaking countries has undertaken tasks directed towards the training of experts in different branches of the environmental sciences,

Bearing in mind that the Centre offers opportunities for the extension of its activities in the field of environmental training and education,

✓ Urges the Executive Director to consider continuing the provision of support to the International Centre for Training and Education in Environmental Sciences until 1981, restructuring its programmes in order to bring them more in line with the environmental training and education needs of the Spanish-speaking and Latin American countries.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

6/9. Environmental law

The Governing Council,

Recognizing that the development of environmental law is an indispensable means of assisting in the implementation of the policies and recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme and in the protection of the world's environment as a whole,

Recalling the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, 49/

Recognizing, especially, the need to develop the relevant principles contained in the Declaration as they relate to liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage,

Reaffirming its decisions 66 (IV) of 13 April 1976 and 91 (V) of 25 May 1977,

Having considered the report on the outcome of the first and second meetings of the Group of Experts on Environmental Law and the Executive Director's comments thereon, 50/

Noting with satisfaction the work and progress of the Group in considering the legal aspects of the prevention of pollution from offshore mining and drilling carried out within the limits of national jurisdiction,

Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To recommend to the Group of Experts on Environmental Law that it expedite its work on the study of the legal aspects of offshore mining and drilling carried out within the limits of national jurisdiction, with a view to establishing guidelines where appropriate, in accordance with the programme agreed at the second meeting of the Group held in Geneva from 3 to 12 April 1978;

(b) To assist the environmental law activities within the United Nations Environment Programme through the provision of sufficient staff support and resources, drawing, if necessary, upon the assistance of legal institutions and organizations linked to the Programme and collecting data on environmental law;

(c) To report on the progress of the work of the Group to the Governing Council at its seventh session.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

49/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. I.

50/ UNEP/GC.6/7/Add.1, paras. 31 and 32.

6/10. Regional programmes and programming: Asia

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 88 D (V) and 90 (V) of 25 May 1977, entitled respectively Regional Seas programme: Asia and Supporting measures: education and training,

Noting the lack of progress in implementation of these decisions,

Noting further the serious shortfall in the Environment Fund allocation for project support in the Asia and Pacific and West Asia regions, as reflected in the Executive Director's note on the implementation of the Fund programme in 1977, 51/

Appreciating the affirmation by the Executive Director of his firm resolve to rectify this situation,

Appreciating also the role of the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme in the sound formulation of Level Two programmes and in assisting, as appropriate, in the development of Level Three proposals,

Considering the major needs that have already been formulated in Asia in relation to deserts, regional seas, subregional co-operation groups, and education and training,

Considering further the fundamental need for vigorous attention to the area of environment and development, particularly at country level,

✓ 1. Decides that steps are urgently needed to restore the balance in terms of activities and support in the Asia and Pacific and West Asia regions; 52/

✓ 2. Urges the Executive Director to extend adequate support from the Environment Fund for the programmes that have matured and to promote the formulation of relevant proposals in needed areas of activity in the region;

3. Welcomes the increasing support provided by the Executive Director to the initiatives and the role of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in the development of regional, subregional and country activities;

4. Invites the national environmental agencies and national development planning agencies of the countries concerned to promote, by all means available, methods and methodologies of relating environmental dimensions within the process of preparing national plans and technical assistance programmes supported by the United Nations Development Programme.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

51/ UNEP/GC.6/13.

52/ As noted in para. 16 of document UNEP/GC.6/13.

6/11. Measures to combat desertification

A

Follow-up to the United Nations Conference
on Desertification

The Governing Council,

Having considered the Executive Director's report on review and follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Desertification, 53/ the study of additional measures and means of financing for implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 54/ the Executive Director's report on the first session of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, 55/ and the report of the Secretary-General on the establishment and operation of a special account to combat desertification, 56/

Having heard the introductory statements made by the Executive Director on these documents,

Taking into account the views expressed by the Governing Council at its sixth session on this subject,

Noting with satisfaction the important role played by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparation of and the results achieved by the Conference,

53/ UNEP/GC.6/9 and annex.

54/ UNEP/GC.6/9/Add.1.

55/ UNEP/GC.6/9/Add.3.

56/ UNEP/GC.6/9/Add.4 and Corr.1.

I

Review and follow-up

1. Notes the report of the Executive Director on the United Nations Conference on Desertification;
2. Notes and approves the accounts of the United Nations Conference on Desertification submitted by the Executive Director; 57/
3. Further approves the adjustment of the surplus in the Conference budget and the deficit in the Fund programme activities and decides to absorb the net deficit to \$14,717 within the Fund programme activities allocation under Terrestrial ecosystems for the year 1978
4. Notes with satisfaction the report of the Environment Co-ordination Board on its eighth session 58/ and the positive actions taken by the Board and its members for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;
5. Invites the governing bodies of the members of the Board to include arrangements in their respective programmes and budgets for the implementation of the Plan of Action;

II

Additional measures for financing the Plan
of Action

1. Takes note of the study prepared by a group of specialists in the international financing of projects and programmes on additional measures and means of financing for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;
2. Decides to submit the study of the group of specialists to the General Assembly, at its thirty-third session, together with an extract of the report of the Governing Council which reflects the differing views which were expressed in the Council on this matter;
3. Invites the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to solicit the views of Governments and report on the results to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session;

III

Report on the first session of the Consultative
Group for Desertification Control

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the first session of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control;
2. Urges the Consultative Group to work with the Executive Director, particularly in assisting in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of projects and programmes within the framework of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and in ensuring proper co-ordination of activities carried out with resources mobilized by the Group;

57/ UNEP/GC.6/9/Annex.

58/ UNEP/GC.6/5/Add.1.

3. Requests the Executive Director to follow up the recommendations of the Group at its first session with a view to speeding up the work of the transnational and other forthcoming projects to combat desertification;

IV

Report of the Secretary-General on the establishment and operation of a special account to combat desertification

Notes the report of the Secretary-General on the establishment and operation of a special account to combat desertification and the recommendations contained therein.

15th meeting
24 May 1978

B

Measures to be taken for the benefit of the Sudano-Sahelian region

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/170 of 19 December 1977, particularly its paragraphs 2 and 3 concerning proposed measures and modes of action for implementing projects and programmes to combat desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region and proposed measures to improve institutional arrangements in the region,

Considering the nature and scope of desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region and the need for immediate implementation in that region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Recalling the mandate, given to the Secretary-General by relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions concerning medium-term and long-term assistance to the drought-stricken countries in the Sudano-Sahelian region, which is being carried out by the United Nations Sahelian Office,

Having examined the report of the Executive Director on proposed measures and modes of action for implementing projects and programmes to combat desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region, and proposed measures to improve institutional arrangements in that region, 59/

Noting that the proposal for expanding the United Nations Sahelian Office into a joint United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Environment Programme venture has been formulated in full consultation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme,

Fully conversant with the financial implications of the three proposals for improved institutional arrangements in the Sudano-Sahelian region, as presented to the Council,

1. Endorses

(a) The definition of the Sudano-Sahelian region as contained in paragraph 3 of the Executive Director's report on proposed measures and modes of action for implementing projects and programmes to combat desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region and proposed measures to improve institutional arrangements in that region;

(b) The proposed principal measures and modes of action to combat desertification in the region;

(c) The proposed characteristics and functions of the proposed institutional mechanisms;

2. Opts for the proposal that the organization and functions of the United Nations Sahelian Office, as well as the organization and functions of its regional office at Ouagadougou, be enlarged, this enterprise to be carried out as a joint United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Development Programme venture;

✓ 3. Authorizes the Executive Director to take the necessary measures required for the implementation of this proposal, in accordance with the actions described in paragraphs 38, 41 and 42 of his report;

4. Invites the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to give favourable consideration to this proposal.

15th meeting
24 May 1978

6/12. United Nations Habitat and Human
Settlements Foundation

A

Implementation of the plan and programme of
operations of the Foundation

The Governing Council,

Takes note of the Executive Director's progress report on the implementation of the plan and programme of operations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. 60/

8th meeting
12 May 1978

B

Budgetary matters and administrative
arrangements

The Governing Council,

Recalling that the current approval of the budget for programme support costs for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation provided by Governing Council decision 94 (V) of 25 May 1977 comes to an end on 30 June 1978,

Noting that, for reasons beyond its control, the Commission on Human Settlements at its first session was not in a position to review and approve the budget of the Foundation,

Noting also the comments by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Executive Director's note on the proposed programme support costs budget of the Foundation for the period 1 July 1978 to 31 December 1978,

Realizing that according to General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 the Commission on Human Settlements will, inter alia, give over-all policy guidance and carry out supervision of the operations of the Foundation,

Decides, as an interim measure to meet the existing situation, and without any prejudice to the full responsibility of the Commission on Human Settlements over the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, to extend the authorization given by its decision 94 (V) of 24 May 1977 for expenditures for programme support costs for the Foundation until 31 December 1978, subject to the following conditions;

(a) That such expenditure, together with expenditures on projects and all such other commitments as may arise, shall not exceed the resources actually available to the Foundation;

(b) That detailed budget proposals shall be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for review in June 1978.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

6/13. Matters relating to the Environment Fund

A

Implementation of the Fund programme

The Governing Council,

1. Takes note of the Executive Director's report on the implementation of the Fund programme in 1977, 61/ and records its satisfaction at the particularly high level of payments against pledges achieved in 1977;
2. Requests the Executive Director to take steps to attain an appropriately balanced geographical distribution of the United Nations Environment Programme's regional activities, taking into account the relative needs of the various regions while ensuring the catalytic role of the Programme in the field of the environment;
3. Appeals to Governments which are either not contributing to the Environment Fund or contributing an amount far below their means to contribute according to their abilities, and to Governments which have contributed in the past to contribute for the 1978-1981 period with the same promptness and sympathetic consideration as for the 1973-1977 period, with a view to attaining the target of the approved medium-term plan;

61/ UNEP/GC.6/13 and Add.1.

4. Expresses appreciation of the format and content of the UNEP/FUND/PROJECT/- series distributed with Report to Governments, and requests that individual project reports be more precise with regard to the "Specific objectives of the project", that a breakdown of the exact manner in which funds are to be allocated by the Environment Fund be clearly indicated and that tables showing the status of commitments and expenditures be included in Report to Governments twice a year;

5. Endorses the intention of the Executive Director to place the Fund programme on a longer-term and more coherent basis with the aim of achieving further rationalization in the use of Fund resources, and their more effective and economical utilization, without, however, delaying or prejudging projects of shorter duration which are of interest to countries;

✓ 6. Authorizes the Executive Director to allocate from the Fund programme reserve to the Revolving Fund (Information) the amount required to bring the uncommitted balance of the Revolving Fund (Information) at 1 January 1979 to the sum of \$200,000.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

B

Project and programme evaluation

The Governing Council,

Taking note of the Executive Director's progress report on the evaluation of Fund projects, 62/

Reaffirming the great importance it attaches to project and programme evaluation,

Recognizing the difficulties involved in defining project and programme evaluation and methodologies suited to the needs of the United Nations Environment Programme,

✓ 1. Requests the Executive Director to define evaluation methodologies more precisely, along the lines presented in his progress report, but without prejudice to paragraph 4 below, with special attention to the need for a clear definition of objectives for programme activities and the establishment of appraisal criteria, and to submit a report on the subject to the Governing Council at its seventh session;

2. Expresses its satisfaction with the UNEP/FUND/PROJECTS/- series as vehicles for bringing reports on evaluation to the attention of Governments, and requests the Executive Director to ensure that these reports be analytical in nature;

3. Recognizes the importance of the evaluation unit being involved at the outset in programme planning, but urges that it be made more managerially independent of the programming and project implementation sections and that it be strengthened by reallocations of existing resources to ensure the realization of its objectives;

4. Suggests that external consultants be used mainly for in-depth evaluations, and that for regional projects and global projects conducted primarily at the regional level, such consultants should to the extent possible come from the regions concerned.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

C

Financial reports and accounts

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the unaudited financial report and accounts of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium ended 31 December 1977; 63/

2. Takes note also of the action taken by the Executive Director 64/ to complete the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions regarding the financial report and accounts of the Fund for 1975.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

D

Management of the Environment Fund:
programme activities, 1978-1979

The Governing Council

1. Agrees with the intention of the Executive Director to seek voluntary contributions for the years 1978-1981 at the global level, as proposed in the medium-term plan;

✓ 2. Agrees to an increase of the financial reserve to \$3,800,000 for 1978 and to a decrease to \$3,300,000 for 1979;

✓ 3. Authorizes the Executive Director to make forward commitments of up to \$10,000,000 in 1980 and \$4,000,000 in 1981;

63/ UNEP/GC.6/L.3, sect. I and annex.

64/ Ibid., sect. II.

4. Decides to revise the apportionment of the allocation for Fund programme activities for 1978 and 1979 as follows:

(In United States dollars)

<u>Areas</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>
Human settlements and human health	5,020,000	4,840,000
Support	4,800,000	4,672,000
Environment and development	1,600,000	1,650,000
Oceans	4,000,000	3,276,000
Energy	570,000	570,000
Environmental management including environmental law	1,140,000	1,040,000
Ecosystems	7,620,000	7,215,000
Natural disasters	550,000	500,000
Earthwatch, including the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals	4,890,000	5,577,000
United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation	700,000	-
Data	<u>710,000</u>	<u>660,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>31,600,000</u>	<u>30,000,000</u>

5. Authorizes the Executive Director to consider the biennium 1978-1979 as a single financial period for which an amount of \$61,600,000 is allocated;

6. Confirms the authorization given to the Executive Director by its decision 98 B (V) of 24 May 1977 to adjust the apportionment of funds for 1978 and 1979 up to a maximum of 20 per cent above and below each line if this should be necessary to preserve the integrity of the programme;

7. Further authorizes the Executive Director to increase the appropriations in convertible currencies for 1978-1979 by the amount of unliquidated obligations recorded and reported by co-operating agencies in 1977 and by the amount of activities rescheduled from 1977 to subsequent years, as indicated in table 3 of his note on Fund programme activities and the status of voluntary contributions 1 January-31 March 1978, ^{65/} on the understanding that, in view of the potential financial constraints affecting the operation of the Fund, adequate liquidity will be maintained at all times;

^{65/} UNEP/GC.6/13/Add.1.

✓ 8. Further authorizes the Executive Director to increase the appropriation for 1978 by the amount of the 1978 component of the non-convertible currency projects recently agreed to, and to apportion the amount involved to different budget lines, particularly supporting measures;

✓ 9. Approves, under chapter II, article V of the general procedures governing the operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, the establishment of a trust fund of \$5.8 million for 1978-1980, within the framework of the Environment Fund, for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates;

✓ 10. Approves, under chapter II, article V, of the general procedures governing the operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, the establishment of a trust fund for the period 1978-1982, within the framework of the Environment Fund, for the financing of the five-year state of the environment report, 1978-1982;

✓ 11. Urges that Governments which contribute on a voluntary basis to trust funds ensure that such contributions do not detract from their contributions to the Environment Fund.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

E

Management of the Environment Fund:
programme and programme support
costs, 1978-1979

The Governing Council,

Having considered the supplementary estimates of the Executive Director for the programme and programme support costs budget for 1978-1979 66/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 67/

1. Notes with approval the Executive Director's intention to consult in 1978 with the Secretary-General regarding the implementation of the second phase of transfers from the programme and programme support costs budget of the United Nations Environment Programme to the regular budget of the United Nations in the biennium 1980-1981;

2. Notes the liability for the programme and programme support costs budget in future bienniums with respect to rental payments;

✓ 3. Agrees to the proposed reclassification of the regional representative posts for the Africa and West Asia regions from the D-1 to the D-2 level;

66/ UNEP/GC.6/16.

67/ UNEP/GC.6/L.4.

4. Recommends that the proposed reclassification of the deputy regional representative posts in the regional offices for Latin America, West Asia and Africa, as well as the proposed establishment of four local-level posts in the regional offices, be reviewed in 1979 on the basis of information to be provided by the Executive Director on duties and responsibilities, and proposals submitted to the Governing Council at its seventh session;
5. Affirms the need for the establishment of a unit for the follow-up to the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;
6. Notes the requirement for other parts of the United Nations system to make available highly-qualified experts for the Desertification Unit, and expresses appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and other members of the United Nations system for supporting the Unit;
7. Agrees that the Unit should comprise, in the first instance, two posts contributed by the United Nations Development Programme, one post contributed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities plus at least twenty-four man-months of professional services contributed by members of the United Nations system, together with one established P-5 post and four local-level posts in the United Nations Environment Programme;
8. Authorizes the Executive Director, as temporary measures, to retain three high-level specialists, and to recruit one additional such specialists as well as four local staff, to provide a Unit of the size requested to follow up the Plan of Action in 1978-1979;
9. Decides that the Executive Director shall review early in 1979 the staff complement of the Desertification Unit, including the possibility of established posts, on the basis of decisions to be taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, and shall submit his review, together with other relevant information, to the Governing Council for decisions at its seventh session;
10. Approves an additional appropriation of \$385,410 for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1978-1979.

14th meeting
24 May 1978

6/14. Co-operation in the field of the environment
concerning natural resources shared by two
or more States

The Governing Council,

Affirming the principles of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, 68/

Taking duly into account General Assembly resolution 3129 (XXVIII) of 13 December 1973 entitled "Co-operation in the field of the environment concerning natural resources shared by two or more States",

Expressing its satisfaction at the work done by the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Natural Resources Shared by Two or More States in carrying out the tasks entrusted to it for the implementation of the above resolution,

Taking into consideration articles 3 and 30 of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974,

Recognizing the right of countries to provide specific solutions on a bilateral or regional basis,

Desiring to promote and develop international law regarding the conservation and harmonious exploitation of natural resources shared by two or more States,

✓ 1. Approves the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Natural Resources Shared by Two or More States on the work of its fifth session, 69/ containing the "Draft principles of conduct in the field of the environment for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious utilization of natural resources shared by two or more States";

✓ 2. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit the report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session as the final report of the Working Group of Experts, and invites the Assembly to adopt the draft principles.

12th meeting
19 May 1978

68/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. I.

69/ UNEP/GC.6/17.

6/15. Study of the problem of the material remnants of wars, particularly mines, and their effect on the environment

The Governing Council,

1. Notes the report of the Executive Director on his consultations with Governments regarding the feasibility and desirability of convening an intergovernmental meeting to deal with the environmental problems of the material remnants of wars; 70/

2. Requests the Executive Director to:

(a) Urge all Governments in possession of the appropriate technology for dealing with environmental hazards caused by remnants of wars to register relevant sources with the International Referral System for sources of environmental information;

(b) Continue to gather, through the System, sources of information on methods of dealing with environmental problems created by the material remnants of wars;

(c) Render assistance to Governments, upon request, in preparing their programmes for the elimination of mines in their territories in accordance with Governing Council decisions 80 (IV), paragraph 5, of 14 April 1976 and 101 (V), paragraph 4, of 25 May 1977;

(d) Carry out and promote studies, in collaboration with appropriate components of the United Nations system, possibly drawing on meetings of experts, on the environmental effects of the material remnants of wars, particularly mines.

9th meeting
15 May 1978

6/16. Relationships with non-governmental organizations

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on relationships with non-governmental organizations, 71/

1. Expresses appreciation to all non-governmental organizations which have taken part in environmental activities and have contributed to the programme activities of the United Nations Environment Programme, and invites such organizations to continue to maintain close co-operation with the Programme;

2. Calls upon the Executive Director and member States further to encourage the creation and growth of non-governmental organizations, and their activities in the field of the environment, especially in developing countries.

9th meeting
15 May 1978

Other decisions

Resolutions and decisions of the thirty-second session of the General Assembly and resolutions of the sixty-third session of the Economic and Social Council of relevance to the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme

At the 7th plenary meeting of the session, on 12 May 1978, the Governing Council noted the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council referred to in document UNEP/GC.6/3 and the relevant actions already taken by the Executive Director and his plans for future action in response to those resolutions.

Provisional agenda, date and place of the seventh session of the Governing Council

At the 13th plenary meeting of the session, on 23 May 1978, the Governing Council decided that, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules of procedure, its seventh session would be held at Nairobi from 18 April to 4 May 1979, to be preceded by informal consultations during the morning of 18 April 1979. At the 14th meeting, on 24 May 1978, the Council adopted the following provisional agenda for the seventh session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Agenda and organizations of the work of the session.
4. Credentials of representatives.
5. Executive Director's report and state of the environment:
 - (a) Introductory report of the Executive Director (including resolutions and decisions of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly and resolutions of the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions of the Economic and Social Council of relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme);
 - (b) Periodicity and duration of Governing Council sessions;
 - (c) State of the environment report.
6. Co-ordination questions:
 - (a) Reports on interagency co-ordination in the field of the environment;
 - (b) Medium-term environment programme;
 - (c) Other co-ordination questions.
7. Programme matters.

8. Plan of action to combat desertification: Co-ordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Plan.
9. Co-ordination with the Commission on Human Settlements and report on the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.
10. The Environment Fund:
 - (a) Report on the implementation of the Fund programme in 1978;
 - (b) Financial report and accounts for the biennium 1976-1977 ended 31 December 1977 and the report of the Board of Auditors; and Financial report and interim accounts (unaudited) for the first year of the biennium 1978-1979 as at 31 December 1978;
 - (c) Management of the Fund of UNEP and administrative and budgetary matters.
11. Provisional agenda, date and place of the eighth session of the Governing Council.
12. Other business.
13. Report of the Governing Council to the General Assembly.
14. Closure of the session.

Informal consultations with Governments

At the 13th plenary meeting of the session, on 23 May 1978, the Governing Council, recalling its decisions 23 (III) of 2 May 1975 and 104 (V) of 25 May 1977, decided that the informal consultations with Governments between the sixth and seventh sessions of the Governing Council will be held at Nairobi for up to five days during January 1979 to exchange views on policies and to consider any other items on which the Executive Director may wish to report, and requested the Executive Director to provide for such informal consultations in his budget estimates.

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1978/62. International co-operation on the environment

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its sixth session, 1/

Having also considered the study of the group of specialists in the international financing of projects and programmes of additional measures and means of financing for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 2/ together with paragraphs 306 to 311 of the report of the Governing Council, which reflect the differing views expressed in the Governing Council on this matter, and the report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of a special account for financing the implementation of the World Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 3/

1. Notes the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its sixth session, welcomes the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme and welcomes also in particular the decision, contained in annex I thereto, relating to the establishment of a system-wide medium-term environment programme based on thematic joint programming, to the emphasis to be given to project and programme evaluation, to the preparatory process for the consideration by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination of matters relating to the environment, to the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, and to the reporting thereon by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Governing Council;

2. Invites all Governments to contribute urgently and generously to the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, bearing in mind decision 6/13 of the Governing Council of 24 May 1978, so as to meet the approved target;

3. Decides to transmit the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the General Assembly, taking into account the views expressed thereon at the second regular session, 1978, of the Economic and Social Council;

4. Invites the General Assembly to approve the report of the Governing Council and the recommendations, as adopted, contained therein.

37th plenary meeting
3 August 1978

1/ UNEP/GC.6/19. For the final text, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/33/25).

2/ Transmitted in a note by the Executive Director of the Programme (UNEP/GC.6/9/Add.1).

3/ A/33/117.

1978/37. Implementation of the medium-term and long-term rehabilitation and development programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region and implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the region

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, particularly General Assembly resolutions 3253 (XXIX) of 4 December 1974, 3512 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, 31/180 of 21 December 1976, 32/159 of 19 December 1977 and 32/170 of 19 December 1977 and Council resolutions 1918 (LVIII) of 5 May 1975 and 2103 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977,

Noting with satisfaction the decisive role played by the United Nations Sahelian Office, on the one hand in helping to combat the effects of the drought and to implement the priority medium-term and long-term rehabilitation and development programme adopted by the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, and on the other hand in mobilizing the necessary resources to finance priority projects,

Considering part B of decision 6/II adopted on 24 May 1978 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme 1/ and decision 25/10 adopted on 27 June 1978 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme 2/ concerning the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region, 3/ and the note by the United Nations Development Programme on the designation of the United Nations Sahelian Office as the mechanism to co-ordinate United Nations efforts to assist in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region, 4/

1

Implementation of the medium-term and long-term rehabilitation and development programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General 5/ on the efforts made to implement the medium-term and long-term rehabilitation and development programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region;

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/33/25), annex I.

2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1978, Supplement No. 13 (E/1978/53), chap. XX.G.

3/ DP/326 and Corr.1.

4/ DP/L.323.

5/ DP/326 and Corr.1.

2. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Governments, United Nations bodies, Intergovernmental organizations, private organizations and individuals that have contributed to the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme drawn up by the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel;

✓ 3. Urges all Governments, United Nations bodies, Intergovernmental organizations, private organizations and individuals to continue to respond favourably, either bilaterally or through the United Nations Sahelian Office or any other intermediary, to the requests made by the Governments of the Sudano-Sahelian countries and by the Permanent Inter-State Committee;

4. Reaffirms the role of the United Nations Sahelian Office as the focal point and main body for co-ordinating United Nations efforts to assist the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in carrying out their rehabilitation and development programme, as well as relations with other participating institutions or organizations, such as the Club of Sahel;

✓ 5. Requests the United Nations Sahelian Office to continue its close co-operation with the Permanent Inter-State Committee and its efforts to ensure co-operation and co-ordination between United Nations programmes and bodies, with a view to the implementation of medium-term and long-term assistance programmes;

✓ 6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly through the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of the rehabilitation and development programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region;

II

Designation of the United Nations Sahelian Office as the mechanism to co-ordinate United Nations efforts to assist in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region

✓ 1. Takes note with satisfaction of and endorses part B of decision 6/11 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme of 24 May 1978 and decision 25/10 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme of 27 June 1978 to designate the United Nations Sahelian Office, in addition to its present responsibilities, as the United Nations mechanism to assist, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, the 15 countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region south of the Sahara and north of the Equator, in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

✓ 2. Recommends to the General Assembly that it enlarge the organization and functions of the United Nations Sahelian Office, as well as the organization and functions of its regional office at Ouagadougou, to cover the additional responsibilities mentioned in paragraph 1 of this section, this enterprise to be carried out as a joint venture by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. Invites the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system concerned to co-operate fully with the United Nations Sahelian Office to ensure the full efficiency of the enlarged Office in assisting the 15 countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

✓ 4. Recommends to the General Assembly that it review annually a report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

32nd plenary meeting
21 July 1978

1978/66. International co-operation in human settlements

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 December 1975 on development and International economic co-operation,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements, and resolution 32/173 of the same date on the resources of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, which requests the Secretary-General to convene a pledging conference for the Foundation, and inter alia appeals to all States to contribute generously at that conference,

Having considered the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its first session 1/ and the report of the Secretary-General on specific measures to meet the need for a decent living environment for the most vulnerable groups of society, 2/

1. Takes note of the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its first session and of the report of the Secretary-General on specific measures to meet the need for a decent living environment for the most vulnerable groups of society;

2. Welcomes the appointment of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

3. Welcomes the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its sixth session 3/ regarding the establishment of close links and co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in accordance with their respective mandates and urges the Centre to establish appropriate links with organs and organizations of the United Nations system concerned, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/162;

4. Urges the Executive Director of the Centre to proceed expeditiously with the necessary action to integrate the functions and activities previously undertaken by the Secretariat units referred to in section III, paragraph 3, of General Assembly resolution 32/162, with a view to ensuring the optimum utilization of resources, without jeopardizing on-going projects;

5. Requests the Commission on Human Settlements at its second session to examine, on the basis of the integrated programme of work of the Centre, the total resources available to the Centre in order to enable it to fulfil

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/33/8).

2/ E/1978/91 and Add.1.

3/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/33/25), annex I.

its mandate as set out in General Assembly resolution 32/162, and to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session, 1979;

✓ 6. Recommends that the General Assembly at its thirty-third session examine the resources available to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, as now incorporated in the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in the light of the outcome of the pledging conference to be held in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/173, and on the basis of proposals to be submitted by the Executive Director of the Centre;

✓ 7. Urges all States, particularly the developed countries, to increase their voluntary contributions for human settlements activities, especially for those activities directed towards fulfilling the objectives of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, as now incorporated in the Centre, with a view to achieving the \$50 million target for the years 1978-1981;

✓ 8. Decides to transmit to the General Assembly, for consideration at its thirty-third session, the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its first session.

38th plenary meeting
4 August 1978

Decision 1978/51. Study of the relationship between population, resources, environment and development

At the 35th meeting, on 1 August 1978, the Council took note of the note by the Secretary-General containing the progress report concerning the study of the relationship between population, resources, environment and development ^{1/} and decided to request the Secretary-General to submit a report on the substance of the matter, for consideration at its second regular session, 1979.

^{1/} E/1978/79.

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

33/5. Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 32/6 of 31 October 1977,

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which man is exposed,

Conscious of the continued need for compiling information about atomic radiation and for analysing its effects on man and his environment,

Noting the intention of the Scientific Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session a report reviewing the dose-response relation at low doses of radiation, genetic effects of radiation, synergism between radiation and other environmental agents, non-stochastic effects of radiation, sources of radiation and the corresponding human exposures and analyses of the models for assessing radiation dose,

1. Notes with appreciation the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation; 1/

2. Commends the Scientific Committee for the valuable contribution it has made since its inception to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of atomic radiation;

3. Requests the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important co-ordination activities, to increase knowledge of the levels and effects of atomic radiation from all sources;

4. Notes with satisfaction the continued and growing scientific co-operation between the Scientific Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme;

5. Requests the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the Scientific Committee's work and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

6. Expresses its appreciation for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their co-operation in this field;

7. Requests all Member States and the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned to continue to supply to the Scientific Committee further data relevant to its work with a view to facilitating the preparation of its report.

43rd plenary meeting
3 November 1978

33/86. Report of the Governing Council of the
United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its sixth session 1/ and the statement of the Executive Director of the Programme introducing the report, 2/

Having also considered Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/62 of 3 August 1978 concerning international co-operation on the environment,

Noting with satisfaction the signing in Kuwait, on 23 April 1978, of the Final Act of the Kuwait Regional Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and the Coastal areas,

Having further considered the note by the Secretary-General on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, 3/

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its sixth session and the decisions, as adopted, contained in annex I thereto;

2. Welcomes the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular the decisions of the Governing Council relating to the establishment of a system-wide, medium-term environment programme based on thematic joint programming, the emphasis to be given to project and programme evaluation and to the preparatory process for the consideration by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination of matters concerning the environment and the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, and the reporting thereon by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Governing Council;

3. Calls upon all bodies and organizations of the United Nations system involved in the elaboration of the new international development strategy to take environmental concerns into full account in view of the close inter-relationship between environment and development;

4. Invites the executive heads, members of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to continue to consider after the merger of the Environment Co-ordination Board with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, environmental matters at their level;

5. Urges all Governments to contribute urgently and generously to the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, bearing in mind paragraph 3 of the Governing Council decision 6/13 A of 24 May 1978, 4/ so as to meet the approved target;

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/33/25).

2/ A/C.2/33/SR.24, paras. 1-14.

3/ A/33/134.

4/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/33/25), annex I.

✓ 6. Requests the United Nations Environment Programme to continue its catalytic and co-ordinating role in the field of the marine environment and ecological balance of regional seas and invites the Governments concerned to conclude, as appropriate, through co-operation among themselves and with the assistance of the United Nations Environment Programme and regional commissions, conventions and other arrangements in order to promote the protection of the marine environment of regional seas;

7. Invites Member States, as appropriate, to ratify and implement the International conventions and protocols designed to protect the environment in every respect and further urges Governments to promote the conclusion of such conventions and protocols.

33/87. Co-operation in the field of the environment concerning natural resources shared by two or more States

The General Assembly,

Affirming the principles stated in the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972. 1/

Recalling its resolution 3129 (XXVIII) of 13 December 1973, entitled "Co-operation in the field of the environment concerning natural resources shared by two or more States",

Recalling further the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, contained in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974,

Noting that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme has, by decision 6/14 of 19 May 1978, 2/ approved the final report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Natural Resources Shared by Two or More States, established under Governing Council decision 44 (III) of 25 April 1975, containing the draft principles of conduct in the field of the environment for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious utilization of natural resources shared by two or more States and the declarations and reservations expressed thereon, 3/

Recognizing the right of States to provide specific solutions on a bilateral or regional basis,

Desiring to promote effective co-operation among States for the development of international law regarding the conservation and harmonious utilization of natural resources shared by two or more States,

1. Notes the valuable work done by the [Intergovernmental] Working Group of Experts on Natural Resources Shared by Two or More States in carrying out the tasks entrusted to it in regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3129 (XXVIII);

2. Takes note of the report of the Group of Experts, its approval, as adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, and its transmission to the General Assembly with an invitation to adopt the draft principles;

3. Invites the Secretary-General to transmit the report to Governments for their study and comments regarding the principles and to report thereon, taking into account also other significant information, with a view to enabling the General Assembly to take a decision at its thirty-fourth session.

1/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.11.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. I.

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/33/25), annex I.

3/ UNEP/GC.6/17.

33/88. Measures to be taken for the benefit of the Sudano-Sahelian region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/170 of 19 December 1977,

Aware of the seriousness of desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region and of the urgency of implementing in that region the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 1/

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its sixth session, 2/ particularly the parts of that report on measures to be taken for the benefit of the Sudano-Sahelian region,

Bearing in mind section II of Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/37 of 21 July 1978,

Stressing the need for bodies of the United Nations system, other international agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the efforts of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region to combat desertification, particularly by planning and implementing projects and strengthening subregional and regional structures,

Recalling its resolution 3054 (XXVIII) of 17 October 1973, in which it defined the functions of the United Nations Sahelian Office,

Recalling further that it is of vital importance that the United Nations Sahelian Office should continue to maintain close co-operation with the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel with a view to the full implementation of the programme drawn up by the Committee and its member States,

1. Endorses decision 6/II B of 24 May 1978 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme 3/ and decision 25/10 of 27 June 1978 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme; 4/

1/ A/CONF.74/36, chap. I.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/33/25).

3/ Ibid., annex I.

4/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1978, Supplement No. 13 (E/1978/53/Rev.1), chap. XX.

✓ 2. Decides to designate the United Nations Sahelian Office, in addition to its current functions, as the arm of the United Nations to be responsible for assisting, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, the efforts of the fifteen countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region situated south of the Sahara and north of the equator 5/ to implement the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

✓ 3. Authorizes, to that end, the organizational enlargement of the United Nations Sahelian Office and its regional office at Ouagadougou, without prejudice to the work undertaken in implementation of the recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region in conformity with the functions of the United Nations Sahelian Office as defined in paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 3054 (XXVIII), this process, in accordance with paragraph 1 above, to be the joint responsibility of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. Invites the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system concerned to co-operate fully with the United Nations Sahelian Office in its efforts to ensure the complete effectiveness of assistance provided to the fifteen countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

✓ 5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to submit to the General Assembly an annual report on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

85th plenary meeting
15 December 1978

5/ Cape Verde, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon and Upper Volta.

33/89. Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/169 and 32/172 of 19 December 1977 containing, its decisions on the report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, 1/

Having considered:

(a) The report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its sixth session, 2/ containing, inter alia, a chapter and decisions on matters arising out of the United Nations Conference on Desertification,

(b) The report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Desertification, 3/

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the study of additional measures and means of financing for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 4/ and on the establishment and operation of a special account for financing the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 5/

Aware of the urgency for implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in view of the acute seriousness of the problem in a large number of countries affected by desertification,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the efforts made to undertake the preliminary arrangements for implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and of the leading role played by the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation and close co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and other agencies concerned, in the preliminary arrangements undertaken within a short time for the implementation of the resolution of the United Nations Conference on Desertification and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Desertification;

3. Takes note also of the establishment of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control and urges the Group to expedite its work to assist the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the mobilization of resources for the formulation and implementation of projects and programmes within the framework of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, and in ensuring proper co-ordination of activities carried out with resources mobilized by the Group;

1/ A/CONF.74/36.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/33/25).

3/ A/33/259.

4/ A/33/260.

5/ A/33/117.

4. Reaffirm its decision to establish in principle a special account within the United Nations for the financing of the national, subregional and regional projects within the framework of the implementation of the Plan of Action;

5. Invites the donor countries and international financial institutions to participate actively in the work of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control;

6. Calls upon donor countries, as well as upon the international and multilateral financial organizations, to increase their financial and technical assistance to the developing countries engaged in combating desertification, in particular to the least developed among them, in response to their requests for the financing of concrete projects;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to solicit the view of Governments on the additional measures and means of financing for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and to report on the results to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

85th plenary meeting
15 December 1978

33/323. Election of twenty members of the Governing Council
of the United Nations Environment Programme 1/

At its 85th and 91st plenary meetings, on 15 and 21 December 1978, the General Assembly, in accordance with section I, paragraph 1, of its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, elected Australia, Botswana, Burundi, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, Guinea, India, Iraq, Italy, Kuwait, Liberia, Malawi, Mexico, Panama, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1979 to fill the vacancies occurring on the expiration of the terms of office of Belgium, the Central African Empire, Cyprus, Greece, Grenada, Hungary, Iraq, Kuwait, Liberia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Rwanda, Somalia, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.

As a result, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme is composed of the following States: Algeria,** Argentina,* Australia,*** Austria,** Bangladesh,* Botswana,*** Brazil,** Bulgaria,* Burundi,*** Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic,*** Canada,* Chad,* China,* Colombia,** Denmark,** France,* German Democratic Republic,*** Germany, Federal Republic of,** Ghana,* Guatemala,* Guinea,*** India,*** Indonesia,* Iran,** Iraq,*** Italy,*** Ivory Coast,* Jamaica,* Japan,** Kenya,** Kuwait,*** Liberia,*** Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,** Malawi,*** Malaysia,** Mexico,*** Netherlands,** Norway,* Pakistan,** Panama,*** Philippines,* Romania,** Senegal,* Spain,* Syrian Arab Republic,* Thailand,*** Trinidad and Tobago,*** Tunisia,** Turkey,*** Uganda,*** Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,** United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,*** United Republic of Tanzania,* United States of America,** Uruguay,*** Venezuela,** Yugoslavia* and Zaire.**

* Term of office expires on 31 December 1979.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 1980.

*** Term of office expires on 31 December 1981.

1/ Provisional text.

33/421. Marine pollution

At its 85th plenary meeting, on 15 December 1978, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, 1/ decided to transmit the draft resolution entitled "Marine pollution", 2/ set forth below, to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session for its consideration:

"Marine pollution

"The General Assembly,

"Mindful of the grave dangers posed to the marine environment by the shipping of oil and other dangerous substances,

"Recalling that the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization has adopted a number of comprehensive international conventions, recommendations, traffic separation schemes and codes of practices specifically for the purpose of enhancing maritime safety, ensuring efficiency of navigation and protecting the marine environment,

"Recalling further the adoption by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization of additional international instruments during 1978, providing for comprehensive standards dealing with tanker safety and pollution prevention and also with training, certification and watch-keeping for seafarers,

"Bearing in mind also that the International Labour Organization has been dealing for many years with matters concerning training and certification for seafarers,

"Regretting that the various measures to ensure the safety of navigation by the observance of the existing international regulations are not applied stringently by all Member States,

"Considering that the conservation of the marine environment represents a basic objective for mankind,

✓ "1. Urges that the competent international institutions and organizations expedite and intensify their activities relating to the prevention of pollution and the determination of responsibilities in this matter;

"2. Calls upon States parties to the 1954 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil 3/ to discharge fully their obligations under the Convention and in particular to ensure that national legislation adopted is sufficiently stringent to have a genuine deterrent effect;

1/ A/33/412, para. 23.

2/ A/C.2/33/L.11.

3/ United Nations, Treaty Series, Vol. 327, No. 4714, p.5.

✓ "3. Urges all States which have not already done so to examine the possibility of ratifying at the earliest opportunity the international conventions and protocols designed to ensure better protection of the marine environment and improve the safety of navigation, inter alia:

"(a) Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972;

"(b) International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974;

"(c) Convention concerning Minimum Standards in Merchant Ships, 1976;

"(d) 1978 Protocol to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974;

"(e) International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973;

"(f) 1978 Protocol to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973;

"(g) International Convention on Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, 1978;

✓ "4. Urges all States to co-operate in order to implement material measures for the effective combating of marine pollution;

✓ "5. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to consider the problems relating to marine pollution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session through the Economic and Social Council."

33/441. United Nations accommodation at Nairobi*

At its 91st plenary meeting on 21 December 1978, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, 1/ took note of the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations accommodation at Nairobi. 2/

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* Provisional text.

1/ A/33/530, para. 30.

2/ A/C.5/33/15.