

6. *Also notes with satisfaction* the decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to expand and strengthen their support to the joint venture and invites them to continue their support so that the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office may carry out its expanded responsibilities at a level commensurate with the pressing needs of the region;

7. *Urges* all Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies, private organizations and individuals to respond favourably, bilaterally or through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office or any other intermediary, to requests from the Governments concerned of the region for assistance in combating desertification;

8. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the inclusion of the programmes of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office among those considered at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities and urges all Governments and donor organizations to consider contributing to the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities;

9. *Requests* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to report annually to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

83rd plenary meeting  
5 December 1980

### 35/73. Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

#### *The General Assembly.*

*Recalling* its resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977, in which it approved the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,<sup>121</sup> and its resolutions 33/88 and 33/89 of 15 December 1978 and 34/184, 34/185 and 34/187 of 18 December 1979, dealing with various aspects of the implementation of the Plan of Action,

*Taking note* of the relevant sections of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighth session<sup>122</sup> and Governing Council decision 8/17 of 29 April 1980<sup>123</sup> on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

*Having considered* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,<sup>124</sup> the report on financing the Plan of Action, prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Governing Council,<sup>125</sup> the study on the same subject prepared by a group of high-level specialists in international financing convened by the Executive Director of the Programme, as called for in General Assembly resolution 34/184,<sup>126</sup> and the report of the Secretary-General on the restoration and improvement of the Fouta-Djallon massif,<sup>127</sup>

1. *Notes with concern* the findings of the analysis made by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme<sup>128</sup> of the constraints on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, particularly the problem of insufficient financing and the increasing demands on the scarce resources of countries suffering from desertification;

2. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the decision by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to include pilot projects for the development and restoration of the Fouta-Djallon massif in the programme to combat desertification, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/185, and of the initiatives taken by the Executive Director of the Programme for the implementation of those projects;

3. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the initiatives taken by the United Nations Environment Programme in seeking to overcome those constraints through its coordinating and catalytic role in the United Nations system, its role in seeking additional means and measures for financing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the convening by its Executive Director of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, and efforts by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, on its own behalf and as a joint venture with the Programme, in combating desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region, and invites the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to extend their full co-operation to the Programme in its task of ensuring the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

4. *Invites* the Governments of countries affected by desertification to continue to give priority, as far as possible, to desertification-control projects in their development plans and in their requests for multilateral and bilateral financial support;

5. *Strongly appeals* to international financial institutions, multilateral financial institutions and Governments of industrialized countries, and of those developing countries in a position to do so, to give their financial support and contribute generously to the Special Account, with a view to enhancing the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

6. *Urges* the Consultative Group for Desertification Control to develop its work further, in order to ensure the availability of the financial resources required for the implementation of the projects supported by it;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General and the study annexed thereto of the group of high-level specialists on additional measures for financing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to draw the attention of donor Governments and international organizations concerned to the continuous threat of desert encroachment and to the meagre resources available for combating desertification and further requests him to mobilize the international community with a view to implementing speedily the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To prepare, in consultation with the United Nations Environment Programme and with the assistance of similar groups of experts on the subjects concerned to be convened by the Executive Director of the Programme;

<sup>128</sup> See A/35/411, annex, sect. IV.

<sup>121</sup> A/CONF.74/36, chap. I.

<sup>122</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/35/25).

<sup>123</sup> *Ibid.*, annex I.

<sup>124</sup> A/35/411, annex.

<sup>125</sup> A/35/396.

<sup>126</sup> *Ibid.*, annex.

<sup>127</sup> A/35/368.

- (i) Feasibility studies and concrete recommendations for the implementation of the additional means of financing deemed practicable by the Secretary-General, including those providing for a predictable flow of funds;
  - (ii) The detailed modalities of obtaining resources on a concessionary basis;
  - (iii) A full feasibility study and working plan for the establishment of an independent operational financial corporation for the financing of desertification projects;
- (b) To report on the results of the above-mentioned studies to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations Environment Programme, in its co-ordinating and catalytic role, to institute, in co-operation with the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, specific programmes of research and training at the national, regional and international levels, and to invite private foundations and other grant-making institutions to co-operate financially and technically in the implementation of those programmes;

11. *Requests* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to report every other year to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the over-all implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

*83rd plenary meeting  
5 December 1980*

### 35/74. International co-operation in the field of the environment

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its eighth session<sup>129</sup> and the proposals of the high-level group of experts on the interrelationships between population, resources, environment and development, annexed thereto,

*Taking into account* the note by the Secretary-General on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment,<sup>130</sup>

*Noting* Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/49 of 23 July 1980 concerning international co-operation in the field of the environment,

*Endorsing* that resolution in which the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed that environmental considerations should be viewed in the context of national plans and priorities and the development objectives of all countries, in particular the developing countries,

*Having in mind* the importance which the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade attaches to an ecologically sustainable development process,<sup>131</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its eighth session—and of the decisions contained therein;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts and progress made in the development of a broad System-Wide Medium-Term Environment Programme and a Perspective Document;<sup>132</sup>

3. *Requests* all appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to co-operate with the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparation of the System-Wide Medium-Term Environment Programme and the Perspective Document;

4. *Requests* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to take into consideration in its programme activities the provisions of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and, through its co-ordinating and catalytic role, to continue to promote the concept of sustainable ecological development, in particular through the promotion and further elaboration of ways and means for the integration of environmental concerns in development programmes and projects;

5. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of the United Nations system on the interrelationships between resources, environment, people and development, as they appear in the annex to its report on the work of its eighth session, as well as those put forward by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1980/49, and requests the Secretary-General to take the requisite steps for their implementation;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, to be held in 1981, and calls upon the United Nations Environment Programme to contribute actively to and participate in the preparatory work for the Conference;

7. *Welcomes* the growing co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and urges them to intensify that co-operation through, *inter alia*, joint meetings of their bureaux with the Executive Directors of both organizations on an annual basis;

8. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to convene, prior to its tenth session, an *ad hoc* meeting of governmental experts in environmental law, welcomes the offer by the Government of Uruguay to serve as host for the meeting and urges Governments and the Governing Council to take all the necessary measures for the preparation of that meeting, including the provision of adequate consultancy;

9. *Further welcomes* the launching, in March 1980, of the World Conservation Strategy and urges all Governments and international organizations, as well as organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to take it into account in developing their policies and programmes;

10. *Requests* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to take the necessary measures, in particular within the context of the system-wide medium-term environment programme, to safeguard, *inter alia*, the efficient use of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and the stimulating, co-ordinating and catalytic role played by the United Nations Environment Programme in reviewing the financial support to ongoing activities and through its careful and selective policy with respect to new commitments for a balanced programme;

<sup>129</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/35/25).*

<sup>130</sup> A/35/359.

<sup>131</sup> See resolution 35/56 above, annex, para. 41.

<sup>132</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/35/25), paras. 171 and 172.*