

5. *Notes with interest* the reforms under way within the Conference in order better to address the challenges of regional cooperation in the 1990s;

6. *Renews its appeal* to the international community to increase its financial, technical and material support for the Conference in order to enable it to implement fully its expanded Programme of Action, which currently includes the marine fisheries and resources sector and the information and culture sector, and to meet the needs of reconstruction and rehabilitation;

7. *Appeals* to the international community and relevant organizations of the United Nations system to extend appropriate assistance to the Conference to enable it to advance the process of regional economic integration, including eventual participation of a democratic, non-racial South Africa;

8. *Calls upon* the South African authorities and all parties in a position to do so to redouble efforts to end the violence;

9. *Welcomes* the peace agreements in Angola and the peace process in Mozambique, and calls upon the international community to encourage and support those developments;

10. *Appeals* to the international community to extend assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the economies of Angola and Mozambique;

11. *Also appeals* to the international community urgently to extend assistance to the newly independent nation of Namibia to enable it to implement its national development programme;

12. *Invites* the donor community and other cooperating partners to participate at a high level in the Annual Consultative Conference of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, to be held at Maputo from 29 to 31 January 1992;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, to continue to intensify contacts aimed at promoting and harmonizing cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*78th plenary meeting
19 December 1991*

46/161. Combating desertification and drought

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977, by which it approved the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,³⁸ and all its subsequent resolutions on the subject,

Recalling also its resolutions 44/228 of 22 December 1989, on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and 45/212 of 21 December 1990, on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind, as well as its decision 44/437 of 19 December 1989, on countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa,

Concerned at the seriousness of the problem of drought and desertification in many regions, and noting the rele-

vance of the experiences of various countries in combating land degradation in an integrated manner,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 44/172 A and B of 19 December 1989, concerning implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, in which the General Assembly invited the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, through its Preparatory Committee, to accord high priority to desertification control;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in 1989-1990, including its implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region,³⁹ and requests the Secretary-General to forward that report, as well as the report requested by the Assembly in paragraph 7 of its resolution 44/172 A,⁴⁰ to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its fourth session;

3. *Endorses* decisions 16/22 A to E of 31 May 1991 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme⁴¹ and decision 91/41 of 25 June 1991 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme;⁴¹

4. *Also endorses* decision 3/16 of 4 September 1991 of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference,⁴² in which the Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit to the Committee at its fourth session a report on the financial, technical and institutional needs to implement effectively and efficiently the decisions of the Conference regarding desertification control;

5. *Welcomes* the priority that will be given to the consideration of desertification by the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts to combat desertification and drought undertaken by African subregional organizations, such as the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, the Ministerial Conference for a joint policy to combat desertification and the Arab Maghreb Union, and the setting up of the Sahel and Sahara observatory;

7. *Also welcomes* the continued and substantial technical and financial assistance by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region at the national and regional level in their preparations for the Conference, and encourages the Office to continue and intensify its assistance in that area;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, within the framework of United Nations Development Programme round tables and/or the World Bank consultative group, to assist the Governments of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in organizing sectoral/thematic round tables in order to mobilize adequate resources for the protection and sound management of natural resources to arrest and reverse the process of desertification;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in light of the decisions of the Conference regarding desertification and drought, to highlight any requirements necessary to implement those decisions in a report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

*78th plenary meeting
19 December 1991*