

developing countries, and especially the relatively less developed among them,

Convinced also of the importance of ensuring the optimum impact of the multiplier effect of assistance provided to the developing countries, and in particular the assistance provided by the United Nations Development Programme,

Recalling paragraph 4 of its resolution 2814 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971 on the capacity of the United Nations development system,

1. *Invites* the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to convene, through the Administrator of the Programme and in consultation with the interested Member States, a working group in order to:

(a) Examine and make recommendations on the best way for developing countries to share their capacities and experience with one another with a view to increasing and improving development assistance;

(b) Examine the relative possibilities and advantages of regional and interregional technical co-operation among developing countries;

2. *Calls upon* the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme also to give priority to the improvement of procedures for the elaboration and implementation of interregional, regional and sub-regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme in accordance with paragraphs 21, 22 and 23 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV);

3. *Also invites* the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to consider at an early session measures that are needed to reduce the administrative costs of the Programme;

4. *Requests* the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report and recommendations on the matters indicated in paragraph 1 above.

*2109th plenary meeting
14 December 1972*

2975 (XXVII). Measures to strengthen the executing agencies of the United Nations Development Programme

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the important role of the United Nations development system for attaining the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade³⁰ and the responsibility of the United Nations Development Programme, as well as of the participating and executing agencies, effectively to assist Member States in their efforts to achieve economic development and social justice as well as qualitative and structural changes in society,

Recalling the consensus adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its tenth session, in June 1970,³¹ designed to increase

³⁰ Resolution 2626 (XXV).

³¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6A (E/4884/Rev.1)*, para. 94. See also General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV), annex.

the capacity of the United Nations development system to respond effectively and rapidly to the needs of developing countries in accordance with their own development objectives and priorities,

Further recalling the decision adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 22 July 1970 to recommend to all executing agencies of the United Nations Development Programme that they take the necessary administrative and organizational steps for the common endeavour of implementing the consensus and improving the delivery capacity of the United Nations development system,³²

Bearing in mind its resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 on the capacity of the United Nations development system,

Aware of the fact that operational activities financed by the United Nations Development Programme represent a very large and growing share of the total activities of the agencies,

1. *Emphasizes* the need for effective and timely preparation as well as implementation of the country programmes and other activities financed by the United Nations Development Programme;

2. *Stresses* that administrative overhead costs involved in the execution of projects of the United Nations Development Programme should be minimized in order to secure increased resources for direct assistance to recipient countries;

3. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to take all necessary measures at the headquarters and in the field offices of the Programme to ensure the timely approval and execution of projects;

4. *Invites* the governing bodies of the participating and executing agencies to strengthen the executing capacity of their respective agencies in accordance with the above-mentioned, as well as other relevant, resolutions and decisions of the United Nations;

5. *Further invites* the governing bodies of the participating and executing agencies, on the basis of problem-oriented documentation prepared by the secretariats concerned, to discuss periodically and keep under review the problems encountered by their respective organizations in the planning and implementation of the country programmes, taking into account the desirability of achieving a high rate of project implementation and the need to promote high quality programmes and projects;

6. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to gather all relevant information on difficulties encountered and measures taken by the agencies to strengthen their operational structure and their delivery capacity and to submit periodic reports thereon, together with his comments, to the Governing Council of the Programme.

*2109th plenary meeting
14 December 1972*

2976 (XXVII). United Nations Capital Development Fund

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2186 (XXI) of 13 December 1966, 2321 (XXII) of 15 December 1967, 2410

³² *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 1 (E/4904 and Corr.1), Other decisions, p. 17.

(XXIII) of 17 December 1968, 2525 (XXIV) of 5 December 1969, 2690 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 and 2812 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971,

Decides to preserve the original functions of the United Nations Capital Development Fund until 31 December 1973, in accordance with the measures set forth in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 2321 (XXII).

2109th plenary meeting
14 December 1972

2994 (XXVII). United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the responsibility of the international community to take action to preserve and enhance the environment and, in particular, the need for continuous international co-operation to this end,

Recalling its resolutions 2398 (XXIII) of 3 December 1968, 2581 (XXIV) of 15 December 1969, 2657 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2849 (XXVI) and 2850 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,³³ held at Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, and the report of the Secretary-General thereon,³⁴

Expressing its satisfaction that the Conference and the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment succeeded in focusing the attention of Governments and public opinion on the need for prompt action in the field of the environment,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment;

2. *Draws the attention* of Governments and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme³⁵ to the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment³⁶ and refers the Action Plan for the Human Environment³⁷ to the Governing Council for appropriate action;

3. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the recommendations for action at the national level referred to them by the Conference for their consideration and such action as they might deem appropriate;

4. *Designates* 5 June as World Environment Day and urges Governments and the organizations in the United Nations system to undertake on that day every year world-wide activities reaffirming their concern for the preservation and enhancement of the environment, with a view to deepening environmental awareness and to pursuing the determination expressed at the Conference;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of resolution 4 (I) of 15 June 1972³⁸ adopted by the Conference on the convening of a second United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and refers this matter to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme with the request that the Council study

³³ A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1.

³⁴ A/8783 and Add.1, Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2.

³⁵ See resolution 2997 (XXVII), sect. I.

³⁶ A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1, chap. I.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, chap. II.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, chap. IV.

this matter, taking into account the status of implementation of the Action Plan and future developments in the field of the environment, and report its views and recommendations to the General Assembly so that the Assembly can take a decision on all aspects of the matter not later than at its twenty-ninth session.

2112th plenary meeting
15 December 1972

2995 (XXVII). Co-operation between States in the field of the environment

The General Assembly,

Having considered principle 20 as contained in the draft text of a preamble and principles of the declaration on the human environment,³⁹ referred to it for consideration by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

Recalling its resolution 2849 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 entitled "Development and environment",

Bearing in mind that, in exercising their sovereignty over their natural resources, States must seek, through effective bilateral and multilateral co-operation or through regional machinery, to preserve and improve the environment,

1. *Emphasizes that*, in the exploration, exploitation and development of their natural resources, States must not produce significant harmful effects in zones situated outside their national jurisdiction;

2. *Recognizes* that co-operation between States in the field of the environment, including co-operation towards the implementation of principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,⁴⁰ will be effectively achieved if official and public knowledge is provided of the technical data relating to the work to be carried out by States within their national jurisdiction, with a view to avoiding significant harm that may occur in the environment of the adjacent area;

3. *Further recognizes* that the technical data referred to in paragraph 2 above will be given and received in the best spirit of co-operation and good-neighbourliness, without this being construed as enabling each State to delay or impede the programmes and projects of exploration, exploitation and development of the natural resources of the States in whose territories such programmes and projects are carried out.

2112th plenary meeting
15 December 1972

2996 (XXVII). International responsibility of States in regard to the environment

The General Assembly,

Recalling principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment⁴¹ concerning the international responsibility of States in regard to the environment,

Bearing in mind that those principles lay down the basic rules governing this matter,

³⁹ See A/CONF.48/4, annex. See also A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1, chap. X, sect. D.

⁴⁰ A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1, chap. I.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*