

3. General debate.
4. Processes and causes of desertification.
5. Plan of action to combat desertification.
6. Credentials of representatives to the Conference: report of the Credentials Committee.
7. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

31/109. Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3001 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 3128 (XXVIII) of 13 December 1973, 3325 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974 and 3438 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 on the preparations for Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

Considering that solutions to human settlements problems around the world are urgently required,

Bearing in mind the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order¹⁵ and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States¹⁶ and the importance for the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade of improving human settlements around the world as a major component in improving the quality of life,

Noting that Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements was held at Vancouver from 31 May to 11 June 1976:

(a) To stimulate innovation, serve as a means for the exchange of experience and ensure the widest possible dissemination of new ideas and technologies in the field of human settlements,

(b) To formulate and make recommendations for an international programme in this field which will assist Governments,

(c) To stimulate interest in developing appropriate financial systems and institutions for human settlements among those making financial resources available and those in a position to use such resources, considering that the most appropriate and effective action for dealing with human settlements problems is action at the national level, but that such action will require assistance and co-operation between and among all States,

1. Expresses its appreciation and thanks to the Government of Canada for the excellent organization, facilities and generous hospitality provided for Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements;

2. Expresses appreciation to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme for the guidance as well as the generous support it provided for the Conference;

3. Takes note of the report of the Conference, including the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976,¹⁷ the recommendations for national ac-

tion¹⁸ and the resolutions for international co-operation,¹⁹

4. Commends the Secretary-General of the Conference on the successful preparation and organization of the Conference;

5. Urges the Governments of all Member States to consider, on a priority basis, the recommendations for national action contained in the report and to take those recommendations into account when reviewing their existing policies and strategies in the field of human settlements;

6. Calls upon the regional commissions and urges all other international organizations within and outside the United Nations system to take intensified and sustained action in support of national efforts, including exchanges of information and assistance, at the request of Governments, in the formulation, design, implementation and evaluation of projects to improve human settlements;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to convene regional meetings, as appropriate, within the framework of the regional commissions, to establish guidelines for the co-ordination, within each region, of action to be taken in order to deal with human settlements and to report to the General Assembly on the results of their deliberations no later than at the thirty-second session;

8. Takes note of the notes by the Secretary-General transmitting reports on the regional meetings already held within the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Europe.²⁰

*101st plenary meeting
16 December 1976*

31/110. Living conditions of the Palestinian people

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976,²¹ and the recommendations for national action²² adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver from 31 May to 11 June 1976,

Recalling also resolution 3 of the Conference²³ on living conditions of the Palestinians in occupied territories, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2026 (LXI) of 4 August 1976,

Recalling further the recommendation adopted at the Regional Preparatory Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held at Teheran from 14 to 19 June 1975,

1. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the relevant United Nations organs and specialized agencies, to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session a report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories;

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, chap. II.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, chap. III.

²⁰ A/C.2/31/5, A/C.2/31/9.

²¹ Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. I.

²² *Ibid.*, chap. II.

²³ *Ibid.*, chap. III.

¹⁵ Resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI); see also resolution 3362 (S-VII) entitled "Development and international economic co-operation".

¹⁶ Resolution 3281 (XXIX).

¹⁷ Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. I.

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing the above-mentioned report, to consult and co-operate with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people;

3. *Urges* all States to co-operate with the Secretary-General in this matter.

*101st plenary session
16 December 1976*

31/111. 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 fourth session,²⁴ and the statement of the Executive Director introducing the report,²⁵

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972,

Recalling also the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order²⁶ as well as the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,²⁷ which laid down the foundations of the new international economic order,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2013 (LXI) of 3 August 1976 relating to the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fourth session,

Reaffirming that there can be no sustained development or meaningful growth without a clear commitment at the same time to preserving the environment and promoting the rational use of natural resources, with an eye to the needs of future generations,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its fourth session;

2. *Endorses* paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2013 (LXI) inviting attention to decision 55 (IV) of 13 April 1976 of the Governing Council,²⁸ concerning the active participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparations for the United Nations Water Conference;

3. *Reaffirms* the belief expressed by the Governing Council in section III, paragraphs 1 and 2, of its decision 47 (IV) of 14 April 1976²⁹ that the environment should be a major consideration in international discussions on development;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the report of the Executive Director on the status of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme³⁰ and urges Governments to extend their continuing financial support to the Fund;

5. *Notes* the report of the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Executive Director

on the study of the problem of the material remnants of war, particularly mines, and their effect on the environment³⁰ and requests the Governing Council to ensure its completion, taking into account the views expressed in the course of the consideration of this matter;

6. *Notes* the report of the Secretary-General on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment³¹ and reiterates the concern expressed in General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 that existing international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment have not yet received the wide acceptance and application they deserve.

*101st plenary meeting
16 December 1976*

31/112. Institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, particularly section IV thereof, in which it decided to review as appropriate, at the thirty-first session, the institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation,

Taking note of decision 78 (IV) of 14 April 1976 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,³²

Recalling that in its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 it established the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System,

1. *Endorses* the view of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme that the institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), namely, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, the environment secretariat, the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Environment Co-ordination Board, appear adequate and sound;

2. *Endorses also* the view expressed by the Governing Council in its decision 78 B (IV) that, in any decision about the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, the following elements relating to the place of environmental considerations within the system should be observed, strengthened and given institutional visibility:

The United Nations system should maintain, within a clearly identified institutional arrangement focused on the essential catalytic and co-ordinating role in the field of the environment, the capacity:

(a) To take responsibility for environmental issues of a global nature;

(b) To provide guidance and leadership in international environmental affairs;

(c) To offer suitable forums and facilities for treaty-making in the field of the environment at the global and regional levels;

²⁴ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/31/25).

²⁵ Ibid., Thirty-first Session, Second Committee, 19th meeting, paras. 1-20.

²⁶ Resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).

²⁷ Resolution 3281 (XXIX).

²⁸ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/31/25), annex I.

²⁹ UNEP/GC.57 and Corr.1.

³⁰ A/31/210.

³¹ A/31/211.

³² See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/31/25), annex I.