

Management of Hazardous Wastes,⁴⁸ and the steps taken by the United Nations Environment Programme to develop a global convention on environmentally sound transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, supports the Goals and Principles of Environmental Impact Assessment⁵⁴ adopted by the Governing Council in its decision 14/25 of 17 June 1987 and its recommendations regarding their application, welcomes the adoption by the Governing Council in its decision 14/27 of 17 June 1987 of the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade⁴⁷ and encourages further steps in this regard;

11. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the results achieved at the first and second sessions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held, respectively, at Cairo, from 16 to 18 December 1985, and at Nairobi, from 4 to 6 June 1987, the first Arab Ministerial Conference on Environmental Considerations in Development, held at Tunis from 13 to 15 October 1986, and the fifth Intergovernmental Regional Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Montevideo in April 1987;

12. *Agrees with the Governing Council* on the desirability of creating and operating regional networks of non-governmental environmental organizations, especially in the developing countries;

13. *Reaffirms* the need for additional financial resources from donor countries and organizations to assist developing countries in identifying, analysing, monitoring, preventing and managing environmental problems in accordance with their national development plans, priorities and objectives;

14. *Reaffirms* the need for developed countries and appropriate organs and organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen technical co-operation with the developing countries to enable them to develop and enhance their capacity for identifying, analysing, monitoring, preventing and managing environmental problems in accordance with their national development plans, priorities and objectives;

15. *Also reaffirms* the need for technical co-operation among developing countries in the field of the environment, and invites the appropriate organs and organizations of the United Nations system to assist, upon request of the parties concerned, in the promotion and strengthening of such co-operation;

16. *Concurs with* Governing Council decision 14/6 of 17 June 1987,⁴⁶ in which the Council decided that the clearing-house mechanism within the United Nations Environment Programme should focus its efforts on strengthening the capacity of developing countries to promote sustainable development by supporting policy planning and institution building, enabling the developing countries to give adequate priority to environmental considerations, and that it should, *inter alia*, support a limited number of programmes of regional significance;

17. *Takes note of* Governing Council decision 14/10 of 18 June 1987⁴⁶ on the environmental impact of *apartheid* on Black agriculture in South Africa;

18. *Recalls* the essential catalytic and co-ordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme within the United Nations system concerning the environment, requests that that role be further developed in the light, particularly, of Governing Council decisions 14/13 and 14/14, and calls upon the Designated Officials for En-

vironmental Matters to improve their effectiveness, bearing in mind those decisions;

19. *Agrees with the Governing Council* on the importance it attached, in the annex to its decision 14/12 of 18 June 1987,⁴⁶ to the preparation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, guided by the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and urges the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to develop an effective way of monitoring the implementation of the system-wide programme and of evaluating critical programmes therein that involve a number of organizations;

20. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries which have contributed regularly to the Environment Fund, and urges all countries that have not contributed to the Fund to do so for 1988 and in future years so that the financial base of the Fund may be expanded;

21. *Urges* all contributing countries to increase their contributions to the Environment Fund for 1988 and in future years so as to enable the approved programme of activities to be fully implemented.

96th plenary meeting
11 December 1987

42/185. Biennial cycle of sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and specified the duration of the term of office of members of the Council,

Mindful that one of the main functions and responsibilities it entrusted to the Council in resolution 2997 (XXVII) was to review and approve annually the programme of utilization of resources of the Environment Fund referred to in section III of that resolution,

Recalling its decision in section I, paragraph 3, of resolution 2997 (XXVII) that the Governing Council should report to the General Assembly annually through the Economic and Social Council and its request in paragraph 5 of resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 that the Governing Council should keep the Assembly informed annually of any new international convention concluded in the field of the environment and of the status of existing conventions,

Bearing in mind its resolution 38/32 D of 25 November 1983, in which it requested its subsidiary organs to consider meeting and reporting on a biennial basis, and its resolution 40/200 of 17 December 1985, in which it welcomed the decision of the Governing Council to change to a biennial cycle of sessions on an experimental basis,

Taking note with satisfaction of Governing Council decision 14/4 of 18 June 1987⁴⁶ on the periodicity and duration of sessions of the Council,

Having considered the possibility of changing the duration of the term of office of members of the Governing Council in recognition of the change to a biennial cycle of sessions,

1. *Decides* that there shall be no regular session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in 1988 and that, beginning in 1989, the regular sessions of the Council shall be held only in odd-numbered years;

⁵⁴ UNEP/GC.14/17, annex III.

2. *Also decides* that the Governing Council shall hold a special one-week session every six years, beginning in 1988, to consider and approve the system-wide medium-term environment programme and to consider the global programme on the environment of the proposed United Nations medium-term plan;

3. *Further decides* that in 1988 the Governing Council shall meet to consider and approve the next system-wide medium-term environment programme and to consider appropriate changes to the global programme on the environment of the extended United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, and that it shall, at its regular session in 1989, consider the global programme on the environment of the next United Nations medium-term plan before submitting it to the General Assembly for approval;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to conduct consultations with Governments to establish the necessary transitional arrangements for a change in the term of office of members of the Governing Council from three years to four, with half of the membership being elected every two years;

5. *Decides* that the reports requested of the Governing Council in section I, paragraph 3, of its resolution 2997 (XXVII) and in paragraph 5 of its resolution 3436 (XXX) shall be submitted biennially instead of annually.

96th plenary meeting
11 December 1987

42/186. Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 38/161 of 19 December 1983 on the process of preparation of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, in which it, *inter alia*, welcomed the desire of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to develop the Environmental Perspective and transmit it to the General Assembly for adoption, benefiting in carrying out that function from its consideration of the relevant proposals made by a special commission, which adopted the name World Commission on Environment and Development,

Welcoming the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond,⁵¹ prepared by the Intergovernmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond of the United Nations Environment Programme, referred to in General Assembly resolution 38/161, considered further by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fourteenth session and adopted in its decision 14/13 of 19 June 1987,⁴⁶ as a basis for the further elaboration of its programme and operations, while acknowledging that different views exist on some aspects,

Appreciating that concepts, ideas and recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development¹² have been incorporated into the Environmental Perspective,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and its Intergovernmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond in the preparation of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond;

2. *Adopts* the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, contained in the annex to the present resolution, as a broad framework to guide national action and international co-operation on policies and programmes aimed at achieving environmentally sound development, and specifically as a guide to the preparation of further system-wide medium-term environment programmes and the medium-term programmes of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in the light of Governing Council decision 14/13;

3. *Notes* that the perceptions generally shared by Governments of the nature of environmental problems, and their interrelations with other international problems, and of the efforts to deal with them include the following:

(a) An international atmosphere of peace, security and co-operation, free from the presence and the threat of wars of all types, especially nuclear war, in which intellectual and natural resources are not wasted on armaments by any nation, would greatly enhance environmentally sound development;

(b) The imbalance of present world economic conditions makes it extremely difficult to bring about sustained improvement in the world's environmental situation; accelerated and balanced world development and lasting improvements in the global environment require improved world economic conditions, especially for the developing countries;

(c) Since mass poverty is often at the root of environmental degradation, its elimination and ensuring equitable access of people to environmental resources are essential for sustained environmental improvements;

(d) The environment puts constraints on as well as provides opportunities for economic growth and social well-being; environmental degradation, in its various forms, has assumed such proportions as can cause irreversible changes in ecosystems, which threaten to undermine human well-being; environmental constraints, however, are generally relative to the state of technology and socio-economic conditions, which can and should be improved and managed to achieve sustained world economic growth;

(e) Environmental issues are closely intertwined with development policies and practices; consequently, environmental goals and actions need to be defined in relation to development objectives and policies;

(f) Although it is important to tackle immediate environmental problems, anticipatory and preventive policies are the most effective and economical in achieving environmentally sound development;

(g) The environmental impacts of actions in one sector are often felt in other sectors; thus internalization of environmental considerations in sectoral policies and programmes and their co-ordination are essential for the achievement of sustainable development;

(h) Since conflicts of interest among population groups, or among countries, are often inherent in the nature of environmental problems, the participation of the concerned parties is essential in determining effective environmental management practices;

(i) Environmental degradation can be controlled and reversed only by ensuring that the parties causing the damage will be accountable for their actions, and that they will participate, on the basis of full access to available knowledge, in improving environmental conditions;

(j) Renewable resources, as part of complex and inter-linked ecosystems, can have sustainable yields only if used