

ing the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

9. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, under its operational activities for development, to ensure that it will collect and report gender disaggregated data covering national and international project personnel, including consultants, as well as beneficiaries of its programmes;

10. *Requests* the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to include in his 1991 report on operational activities for development of the United Nations system a separate chapter on United Nations efforts to integrate women in development, both as a mainstream and specific activity of the United Nations system, and with particular attention to literacy, education, health, population, environment, employment and participation in decision-making;

11. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to take the present resolution into account when reviewing, at its extended session in 1990, progress made in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies.

83rd plenary meeting  
19 December 1989

#### 44/172. Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

##### A

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977, by which it approved the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,<sup>7</sup> and all its subsequent resolutions on the subject,

*Recalling also* its resolution S-13/2 of 1 June 1986, by which it adopted the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, which identified measures to combat desertification as a priority,

*Bearing in mind* the draft resolution to be adopted at the present session,<sup>8</sup> concerning the United Nations conference on environment and development, to be held in 1992, fifteen years after the adoption of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

*Deeply concerned* that the problem of desertification, which has a global impact, is still on the fringe of the growing awareness on the part of the international community that it is imperative to combat environmental deterioration effectively within the framework of the interdependence of nations,

*Gravely concerned* by the continuing spread and intensification of desertification in developing countries, particularly in Africa, and the indescribable human suffering, economic and financial losses and social disruption caused by that scourge,

*Aware* that drought and desertification place a considerable burden on the economic and financial capacities of the developing countries affected and that the negative effects of the international economic environment impede their efforts to undertake effective and sustained pro-

grammes to combat desertification, for which they bear primary responsibility,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/189 A, B and C of 11 December 1987<sup>9</sup> and of the relevant section of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;<sup>10</sup>

2. *Expresses its deep concern* about the inadequacy of financial resources for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

3. *Urges* Governments, in particular those of the developed countries, United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental bodies to increase and intensify their efforts to combat desertification and to accord the highest priority to the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action;

4. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to consult the principal international organizations, private foundations, individuals and the major media enterprises that finance or promote environmental protection activities in order to draw their attention to the compelling need to consider desertification control on an equal footing with other current environmental issues;

5. *Invites* the United Nations conference on environment and development, to be held in 1992, to accord high priority to desertification control and to deploy all means necessary, including financial, scientific and technological resources, to halt and reverse the process of desertification with a view to preserving the ecological balance of the planet;

6. *Invites* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to contribute substantially to the discussion on desertification at the conference, *inter alia*, by undertaking a general evaluation, sufficiently in advance of the conference, of the progress achieved in implementing the Plan of Action;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to submit to the conference, through its preparatory committee, a report containing relevant expert studies on, *inter alia*, the following:

(a) Relevant suggestions and proposals formulated within the United Nations system on the possibility of utilizing new methods to finance the programmes of multilateral organizations at the global level, over and above regular budgets and conventional extrabudgetary resources;

(b) The state of implementation of the Plan of Action and objectives and courses of action to further the struggle against desertification, including an evaluation of the additional resources needed in order to attain the minimum objectives of the struggle against desertification;

(c) Ways and means of promoting, in particular in the developing countries, research into and development of existing and potential technology to combat desertification and procedures for the transfer of such technology on favourable terms, in particular to developing countries;

(d) Possibilities for obtaining loans on concessional terms, from Governments and other sources, to finance the struggle against desertification;

(e) Possibilities for reducing the impact of desertification, including reforestation, with the help of mech-

<sup>7</sup> Report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, Nairobi, 29 August-9 September 1977 (A/CONF.74/36), chap. I.

<sup>8</sup> See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 82, document A/44/746/Add.7, para. 55, draft resolution V. The draft was subsequently adopted as resolution 44/228

<sup>9</sup> A/44/351-E/1989/122.

<sup>10</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/44/25), chap. VI.

anisms involving the cancellation or reduction of external debt;

(f) Possibilities for strengthening and co-ordinating the activities of funds established for that purpose in various international institutions;

(g) Ways of encouraging the active participation of non-governmental organizations, foundations and individuals in the financing of training and scientific research programmes to combat desertification, including reforestation programmes;

8. *Decides* to close the Special Account to finance the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take the necessary steps to do so;

9. *Also decides* that the Consultative Group for Desertification Control will meet every year until the conference on environment and development is held in 1992 and every two years thereafter, and reaffirms its mandate as contained in resolutions 32/172 of 19 December 1977 and 39/168 of 17 December 1984;

10. *Calls upon* the Consultative Group, in co-operation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to contribute to the enhancement of awareness of environmental issues and to intensify its efforts to mobilize additional resources, to exchange information on scientific research, national programmes and the implementation of the Plan of Action and to give its opinions on the actions to be undertaken in the battle against desertification;

11. *Urges* the Governments of countries affected by desertification to accord high priority, in their national development plans, to medium-term and long-term strategies and programmes for desertification control;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General, together with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the various provisions of the present resolution, and to ensure that it is submitted, immediately after publication, to the preparatory committee for the United Nations conference on environment and development.

*83rd plenary meeting  
19 December 1989*

## B

### IMPLEMENTATION IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 32/170 of 19 December 1977, 33/88 of 15 December 1978, 34/187 of 18 December 1979, 35/72 of 5 December 1980, 36/190 of 17 December 1981, 37/216 of 20 December 1982, 38/164 of 19 December 1983, 39/168 B and 39/206 of 17 December 1984, 40/198 B of 17 December 1985, S-13/2 of 1 June 1986 and 42/189 B of 11 December 1987,

*Bearing in mind* the particularly serious nature of the problem of desertification in the Sudano-Saharan region and of the critical situations it creates, which impede the economic and social development of the region and have tragic implications for the living conditions of the population,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Sudano-Saharan Office,<sup>11</sup> as well as the relevant section of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;<sup>10</sup>

2. *Stresses with deep concern:*

(a) That desertification in the countries of the Sudano-Saharan region has worsened and that it has spread to other regions of Africa;

(b) That the chronic insufficiency of financial resources continues to pose obstacles to desertification control;

(c) That the struggle against desertification requires financial and technical resources beyond the means of the affected countries;

3. *Urges* the affected countries that have not yet done so to include projects to combat desertification and drought in their national development plans and to accord high priority to them;

4. *Also urges* the affected countries to use all appropriate mechanisms, including the round-table meetings of the United Nations Development Programme and the consultative groups of the World Bank, to mobilize resources for the implementation of programmes to combat desertification, and appeals to donor countries to provide substantial additional resources for the financing of such programmes;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* that the United Nations Sudano-Saharan Office has endorsed the concept of sustainable development in adopting a global approach to the question of the management and conservation of natural resources and to environmental issues and in emphasizing the importance of the incorporation of desertification control activities in national development plans;

6. *Urges* the United Nations Sudano-Saharan Office to assist the countries of the region with their preparations for the United Nations conference on environment and development, to be held in 1992, and with the resulting follow-up activities;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the interest displayed at the Summit of the seven major industrial nations, held in Paris from 14 to 16 July 1989, in aspects of the struggle against desertification and, specifically, in the planned observatory for the Sahara and the Sahel;<sup>12</sup>

8. *Expresses its gratitude* to those Governments which contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Saharan Activities, and renews its urgent appeal to all members of the donor community to contribute substantially to the Trust Fund in order to enable the United Nations Sudano-Saharan Office to respond more effectively to the pressing needs of the African countries stricken by desertification;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen their common undertaking to support the United Nations Sudano-Saharan Office;

10. *Invites* the United Nations Sudano-Saharan Office:

(a) To intensify its efforts to mobilize additional resources to support the efforts of the countries covered under its mandate and of the relevant regional organizations, in particular the Intergovernmental Authority for

<sup>11</sup> DP/1989/50

<sup>12</sup> A/C.2/44/11, para. 51

Drought and Development and the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel;

(b) To continue to support the Ministerial Conference for a joint policy to combat desertification in the countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Economic Community of West African States, in the Maghreb countries, in Egypt and in the Sudan (COMIDES) and, in this context, to co-operate with the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference and with the Arab Maghreb Union.

83rd plenary meeting  
19 December 1989

#### 44/173. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for co-ordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,<sup>13</sup> the core of which consists of integrated national shelter strategies.

Also recalling its request, contained in paragraph 7 of resolution 43/181, that the Commission on Human Settlements, as the body designated to co-ordinate implementation of the Global Strategy, report biennially to the General Assembly on progress made in its implementation.

Recognizing that the Global Strategy is the most ambitious programme that the international community has so far adopted in the human settlements sector and, as such, requires the concerted efforts of all Member States, United Nations bodies and donor agencies, as well as the entire attention of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Convinced that, while integrating the most effective and efficient policy tools in all action areas, national shelter strategies can be crucial instruments of enablement leading to the full mobilization of all types of resources on a sustainable basis and thereby facilitating adequate shelter for all by the year 2000,

Paying special attention to the need to ensure equal access to available resources by all population groups, while recognizing the critical role that women should play in the implementation of the Global Strategy, as well as the need to remove obstacles that some population groups, such as households headed by women, may face in this respect.

Concerned about the economic constraints many countries face in their development efforts, but at the same time encouraged by the positive impact which enabling shelter strategies have on economic development,

Emphasizing that the objective of facilitating shelter for all can be promoted by a national strategy which is recognized and supported at the highest possible political level, adjusted to the macro-economic need of consolidating the national resource base and minimizing the import content, based on nationally and individually affordable standards, flexible in terms of the diversity of shelter priorities and specific in terms of institutional arrangements for partnership between various sectors of implementation,

Having considered the first report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,<sup>14</sup>

Noting with satisfaction the support given to the Plan of Action of the Global Strategy by donor Governments and international bodies and agencies in assisting Governments in the formulation of their national shelter strategies,

Cognizant of the importance of sustaining and expanding national and international support to this crucial phase of the Plan of Action,

Noting that, when considering future voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, donors will be influenced by the degree of emphasis of the work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the Global Strategy and by the priorities within the Global Strategy reflected in that programme,

1. Commends Governments which are reviewing, revising and consolidating their national shelter strategies, as well as implementing them with great determination, and urges all other Governments to do the same;

2. Recommends that all Governments gradually set in place the monitoring system to be proposed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), following the guidelines to be prepared by the Executive Director;

3. Invites Governments to make voluntary contributions whenever possible to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, in cash or in kind, in order to facilitate the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

4. Urges the organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies to provide financial and other support to the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Global Strategy.

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#### 44/174. Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976,<sup>15</sup> and the relevant recommendations for national action<sup>16</sup> adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

Recalling also its resolution 42/190 of 11 December 1987,

Taking into account the *intifadah* of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation, including its economic and social policies and practices,

Gravely alarmed by the continuation of the Israeli settlement policies in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, which have been declared null and void and a major obstacle to peace.

Taking into account the need of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for extra funds to prepare the comprehensive study on the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory requested by the Trade and Development Board in its resolution 239 (XXIII) of 9 October 1981,<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. I

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. II

<sup>17</sup> See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 15 and corrigendum (A/36/15 and Corr. 1), part three, annex I

<sup>13</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/43/8/Add.1)

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/44/8/Add.1)