

preparations for the Conference on the basis of guidelines and requirements to be established by the Preparatory Committee;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the co-ordination of contributions from the United Nations system through the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

11. *Invites* all States to take an active part in the preparations for the Conference, to prepare national reports, as appropriate, to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee in a timely manner, and to promote international co-operation and broad-based national preparatory processes involving the scientific community, industry, trade unions and concerned non-governmental organizations;

12. *Requests* relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to contribute to the Conference, as appropriate;

13. *Stresses* the importance of holding regional conferences on environment and development with the full co-operation of the regional commissions, and recommends that the results of such regional conferences be introduced into the preparatory process for the Conference, bearing in mind that regional conferences should make important substantive contributions to the Conference;

14. *Decides* that the preparatory process and the Conference itself should be funded through the regular budget of the United Nations without adversely affecting other ongoing activities and without prejudice to the provision of sources of extrabudgetary resources;

15. *Decides* to establish a voluntary fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, to participate fully and effectively in the Conference and in its preparatory process, and invites Governments to contribute to the fund;

16. *Requests* the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions on the progress of work of the Committee;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions an item entitled "United Nations Conference on Environment and Development".

85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989

44/229. International co-operation in the field of the environment

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned at the increasing degradation of the environment, which, if allowed to continue, could endanger not only economic and social development but the very basis of life itself,

Noting the increased political interest in solving environmental problems and intensified international co-operation to that effect,

Welcoming the fact that there have been encouraging developments in some important areas of environmental co-operation,

Reaffirming that there is a direct interrelationship between environment and development, and recognizing that a favourable international economic climate conducive to sustained economic growth and development, particularly in developing countries, is of major importance for sound management of the environment,

Reaffirming also the importance of integrating environmental concerns and considerations into policies and programmes in all countries without introducing a new form of conditionality in aid or development financing or constituting a pretext for unjustified barriers to trade,

Noting the fact that the largest part of the current emission of pollutants into the environment, including toxic and hazardous wastes, originates in developed countries, and recognizing that those countries therefore have the main responsibility for combating such pollution,

Recognizing that serious environmental problems are arising for all countries and that those problems must be progressively addressed through preventive measures at their sources by national efforts and international co-operation,

Reaffirming the need for developed countries and appropriate international organs and organizations to strengthen technical co-operation with developing countries, increase the transfer of technology and provide additional resources to enhance the capacity of developing countries to solve their environmental problems,

Recognizing that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in 1992, is a unique opportunity for all nations to address environmental and development issues in an integrated manner and to mobilize their political will to solve environmental problems through international co-operation,

Recalling decision 14/10 of 18 June 1987 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme¹²⁴ on the environmental impact of *apartheid* on black agriculture in South Africa,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its fifteenth session,¹²⁵

1. *Endorses* the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, welcomes the report of the Governing Council on the work of its fifteenth session and takes note with appreciation of the decisions therein, as adopted, in the light of the present resolution;

2. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Programme as defined in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, and supports further strengthening of the role of the Programme as the central catalysing, co-ordinating and stimulating body in the field of the environment within the United Nations system;

3. *Welcomes* the measures adopted by the Governing Council, in its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989,⁴⁷ to improve its own effectiveness and efficiency;

4. *Reaffirms* that, owing to its universal character, the United Nations system, through the General Assembly, is the appropriate forum for concerted political action on global environmental problems;

5. *Considers*, in this regard, that the structure of the United Nations and its responsiveness in dealing with major environmental issues should be reviewed in order to strengthen its capacity to deal with these matters in an integrated, coherent and effective way, and requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on this issue, taking into account the views expressed by Governments, to be considered in the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

6. *Takes note* of the areas of concentration for the international community set out by the Governing Council

¹²⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 and corrigendum (A/42/25 and Corr.1)*, annex I.

¹²⁵ *Ibid.*, *Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/44/25)*.

in section IV of its decision 15/1 and the list of issues within those areas, which are not listed in any particular order of priority, to which the Programme should give special attention;⁴⁷

7. *Takes note* of Governing Council decision 15/4 of 26 May 1989⁴⁷ and supports the decision of the Council to hold a special session in 1990 of three days' duration at the same location as, and in conjunction with, the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which, at its organizational session, should bear this issue in mind with a view to achieving an effective preparatory process for the Conference; this special session should deal with the elaboration of and the process of making and implementing decisions on priority environmental issues, in particular ways and means of enhancing the role of the Programme within the United Nations system in addressing those issues;

8. *Reaffirms* the need to provide new and additional financial resources to support developing countries in identifying, analysing, monitoring, preventing and managing environmental problems primarily at their source, in accordance with their national development goals, objectives and plans, so as to ensure that their development priorities are not adversely affected;

9. *Stresses* the need for new and additional financial resources for measures aimed at solving major environmental problems of global concern, and especially to support those countries, in particular developing countries, for whom the implementation of such measures would entail a special or abnormal burden, due, in particular, to their lack of financial resources, expertise and/or technical capacity;

10. *Expresses its satisfaction* at indications that the flow of resources to the Environment Fund is increasing in real terms, endorses the annual target of a minimum of one hundred million United States dollars in contributions by the year 1992, taking into account the increasing tasks of the Programme, and calls upon all Governments to contribute or increase their contributions to the Fund by at least 35 per cent per annum from the 1 January 1989 level to enable that target to be met by 1992;

11. *Endorses* the views and suggestions of the Governing Council as expressed in its decision 15/2 of 26 May 1989⁴⁷ on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987 as a positive step towards a better understanding of the concept of sustainable and environmentally sound development by all countries;

12. *Takes note* of the recommendation made by the Governing Council in its decision 15/5 of 25 May 1989⁴⁷ and stresses that sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries should become one of the central guiding principles in the international development strategy being elaborated for the fourth United Nations development decade;

13. *Concurs* with Governing Council decision 15/14 of 25 May 1989⁴⁷ on the clearing-house function, in which it is considered that the Programme should play a more vigorous role in supporting developing countries, upon their request:

(a) To establish and strengthen their institutions and professional capacities to integrate environmental considerations into their development policies and planning;

(b) To formulate and initiate programmes and activities for dealing with their most serious environmental problems;

(c) To formulate and participate in action plans for the common management of eco-systems and critical environmental problems at the national, regional and global levels;

14. *Stresses* that sustainable and environmentally sound development requires changes in the unsustainable pattern of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries, and the development of environmentally sound technologies, and, in this context, stresses also the need to examine, with a view to making recommendations, effective modalities for favourable access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies, in particular to the developing countries, including on concessional and preferential terms, and modalities for supporting all countries in their efforts to create and develop their endogenous technological capacities in the field of scientific research and development, as well as in the acquisition of relevant information, and, in this context, stresses further the need to explore the concept of assured access for developing countries to environmentally sound technologies, in its relation to proprietary rights, with a view to developing effective responses to the needs of developing countries in this area;

15. *Takes note* of Governing Council decision 15/24 of 25 May 1989⁴⁷ on sustainable agriculture, and calls upon the Governing Council to pay special attention to the implementation thereof;

16. *Reaffirms* the urgent need for Governments, multilateral organizations and governmental and non-governmental financial institutions to take into account in their policies, decision-making processes and financial mechanisms the relationship between the foreign debt and the ability of developing countries to strengthen their capacity to address the critical environmental issues fundamental to development and protection of the environment;

17. *Urges* the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to take the necessary steps to ensure the participation of developing countries in scientific and policy aspects of its work, and calls upon the international community, in particular the developed countries, to consider contributing generously to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Trust Fund with a view to financing the participation of experts designated by Governments of the developing countries in all the meetings of the Intergovernmental Panel, including those of its working groups and sub-groups;

18. *Supports* the request made by the Governing Council, in its decision 15/36 of 25 May 1989,⁴⁷ that the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in co-operation with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, begin preparations for negotiations on a framework convention on climate, taking into account the work of the Intergovernmental Panel and its interim report, as well as the results achieved at international meetings on the subject, including the Second World Climate Conference, and recommends that such negotiations begin as soon as possible after the adoption of the interim report of the Intergovernmental Panel and that the General Assembly at an early date during its forty-fifth session take a decision recommending ways and means and modalities for further pursuing these negotiations, taking into account the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in 1992;

19. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made in the protection of the ozone layer and urges all States to cooperate with the Executive Director of the United Nations

Environment Programme in the process of strengthening the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, adopted on 16 September 1987, in the light of the Helsinki Declaration on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, adopted on 2 May 1989,⁵³ and emphasizes the importance of taking into account the special needs and requirements of developing countries and developing appropriate funding mechanisms in order to enable all countries, in particular developing countries, to participate effectively in the revised Protocol;

20. *Notes* the adoption, on 22 March 1989, of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal,¹¹⁸ and calls upon all States to consider signing the Convention without prejudice to the final position to be adopted by regional organizations in this regard and to strengthen their co-operation in problem areas within the scope of the Convention;

21. *Supports* Governing Council decision 15/23 of 25 May 1989⁴⁷ on desertification, in which the Council, *inter alia*, invites donor Governments and intergovernmental bodies to accord high priority in their bilateral and multilateral assistance activities to national programmes for combating desertification and for the rehabilitation of land resources;

22. *Considers* the conservation and utilization of biological diversity to be a priority issue, an important element of ecological balance and a source of benefit to mankind, and welcomes Governing Council decision 15/34 of 25 May 1989;⁴⁷

23. *Notes* the consideration given by the Governing Council in its decision 15/10 of 25 May 1989⁴⁷ to the proposed establishment of a United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance and takes note of the information provided by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the preliminary results of his consultations regarding the views expressed by Governments and organizations on this matter, bearing in mind the mandates of the Programme, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as other relevant United Nations specialized agencies and bodies;

24. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the impetus given to addressing environmental concerns through meetings at the regional level, and calls on the Programme and other relevant organizations to continue to play an effective role in this regard.

*85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989*

44/230. Target for World Food Programme pledges for the period 1991-1992

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of its resolution 2095 (XX) of 20 December 1965 to the effect that the World Food Programme is to be reviewed before each pledging conference,

Recalling also the provisions of paragraph 4 of its resolution 42/164 of 11 December 1987 stipulating that, subject to the review provided for in its resolution 2095 (XX), the next pledging conference, at which Governments and appropriate donor organizations should be invited to pledge contributions for 1991 and 1992, with a view to reaching such a target as may then be recommended by the General Assembly and by the Conference of the Food

and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, should be convened at the latest early in 1990,

Noting that the Programme was reviewed by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the World Food Programme at its twenty-seventh session and by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1989,

Having considered Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/121 of 28 July 1989, and the recommendation of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes,

Recognizing the value of and continuing need for multilateral food aid as provided by the World Food Programme, both as a form of capital investment and for meeting emergency food needs,

1. *Establishes* for the period 1991-1992 a target for voluntary contributions to the World Food Programme of 1.5 billion United States dollars, of which not less than one third should be in cash and/or services, and expresses the hope that those resources will be substantially augmented by additional contributions from other sources in view of the prospective volume of sound project requests and the capacity of the Programme to operate at a higher level;

2. *Urges* States Members of the United Nations and members and associate members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and appropriate donor organizations to make every effort to ensure that the target is fully attained;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to convene a pledging conference for this purpose at United Nations Headquarters early in 1990.

*85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989*

44/231. Report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/165

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/165 of 11 December 1987, as adopted, on international economic security,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question,¹²⁶

Emphasizing the role of the United Nations and the interest of its Member States in strengthening international co-operation for ensuring sustained development, particularly in the developing countries, and balanced growth in the world economy,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work undertaken by the Secretary-General on the subject;

2. *Recognizes* that the discussions that have taken place on the subject have contributed to a growing common understanding of economic interdependence and have played a useful role in the continuing efforts to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of activities of the United Nations in the economic field and strengthen multilateral co-operation in international economic affairs to the benefit of all countries, especially developing countries;

3. *Emphasizes* that a universal, constructive and comprehensive dialogue aimed at revitalizing economic growth and development, in particular the development of developing countries, is essential if effective and co-