

49/110. International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries: International Year for the Eradication of Poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/183 of 21 December 1993 proclaiming 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

Reaffirming its resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 45/213 of 21 December 1990, 46/141 of 17 December 1991, 47/197 of 22 December 1992 and 48/184 of 21 December 1993 related to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Recalling also its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992 entitled "Observance of an international day for the eradication of poverty",

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,⁶⁵

Recognizing that although poverty exists in all countries, its impact is most severe and widespread in the developing countries and on the vulnerable groups of society,

Aware of the need for a better understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty,

Recognizing that the eradication of poverty and the full achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives and strategies are interrelated goals,

Recognizing also the central role that women play in the eradication of poverty,

Stressing the importance of national strategies and policies for, and of the coordination of international cooperation in, combating poverty and of the exchange among countries of successful experiences in the field,

Recognizing that the grave suffering of the great majority of human beings who live in conditions of poverty demands the immediate attention of the international community and the adoption of concrete actions and measures towards the eradication of poverty within the framework of relevant forthcoming United Nations conferences, particularly the World Summit for Social Development, and within the context of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

1. *Reaffirms* that the major activities for the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty should be undertaken at all levels and that assistance should be provided by the United Nations system with a view to creating among States, policy makers and international public opinion a greater awareness of the fact that the eradication of poverty is both a complex and a multidimensional problem and fundamental to reinforcing peace and achieving sustainable development;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the importance that the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development is going to place on the issue of poverty eradication;

3. *Stresses* that an in-depth and complete study of the nature, the causes and the consequences of all types of poverty in developing countries which affect mankind is necessary within the framework of the Year, building on the results of the World Summit for Social Development;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General through the secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the United Nations

University to give appropriate consideration, in directing their research and studies of all types of poverty, to the experiences of the poor themselves and so contribute to a better understanding of their situation;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with all States, concerned specialized agencies, programmes and organs of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and interested groups, to achieve at an early date the elaboration of the draft programme concerning the preparations for and observance of the Year, containing the objectives, principles, themes and main recommendations for the Year, which should be consistent with the challenge of poverty and the declaration and the programme of action of the World Summit for Social Development, and to submit a final report thereon to the General Assembly for consideration at its fiftieth session, with the aim of ensuring that the Year makes a distinct and significant contribution to the efforts to eradicate poverty;

6. *Requests* that the preparatory body for the Year choose a logo for the Year, in consultation with all countries and relevant groups, and requests that the designers of the logo chosen be awarded a symbolic prize at the ceremony marking the launching of the Year;

7. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to organize in December 1995, during the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, the ceremony marking the launching of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty;

8. *Invites* all States, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, concerned national organizations, non-governmental organizations and interested groups to give the necessary attention to the preparations for and observance of the Year;

9. *Decides* to consider at its fiftieth session the preparations for the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty under the sub-item entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries".

*92nd plenary meeting
19 December 1994*

49/111. Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it endorsed the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling also its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 on the institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Reaffirming the need for a balanced and integrated approach to environment and development issues and the new global partnership for sustainable development initiated at the Conference,

Having considered the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session,⁶⁶ which was held in New York from 16 to 27 May 1994

Taking into account the recent national, subregional, regional and interregional efforts and initiatives to promote sustainable development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session and endorses the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Welcomes* the communications regarding the implementation of Agenda 21³ and the action taken in many

⁶⁵ A/49/572.

countries towards elaborating, as appropriate, national sustainable development strategies and action plans provided on a voluntary basis by a number of Governments and organizations at the second session of the Commission, and encourages Governments to continue to share among themselves their experiences in the implementation of Agenda 21;

3. *Underlines* the importance of preparing and carrying out national sustainable development strategies, programmes or action plans, as the case may be, and to that end calls for provision of financial resources and transfer of technology;

4. *Notes* the ongoing work on the elaboration of sustainable development indicators;

5. *Expresses its deep concern* that the financial recommendations and commitments of Agenda 21, including those regarding official development assistance, despite an increase in private investment in some countries, are short of expectations and requirements and that the current availability of financial resources for sustainable development and the limited provision of adequate and predictable new and additional financial resources will constrain the effective implementation of Agenda 21 and could undermine the basis of the global partnership for sustainable development, and, in this context, expresses its concern that overall official development assistance has even decreased since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;⁶⁶

6. *Stresses* the critical need for and importance of the provision of means of implementation, in particular to developing countries, especially those relating to new and additional financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technology to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, in order to assist them in implementing Agenda 21 and other decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

7. *Also stresses* the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development as a unique international forum for fostering multilateral negotiations and promoting action in the area of changing consumption and production patterns, calls on the Commission to promote the adoption of urgent steps to implement the relevant chapters of Agenda 21 related to the crucial issue of unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in the developed countries, which not only constitute the major cause of continued global environmental deterioration but also aggravate poverty and imbalances, and, in that context, reiterates that national authorities should endeavour to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account that the polluter should, in principle, bear the costs of pollution;

8. *Notes* the work done so far by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade/World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Environment Programme in the fields of trade, environment and sustainable development, underlines the need to ensure close cooperation and complementarity of work with the Commission on Sustainable Development, and recommends that the Commission, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations continue to be appropriately represented at the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization;

9. *Stresses* the importance of the decisions adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development, *inter alia*, on health, human settlements, fresh water, toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes as concrete steps in the implementation of the sectoral clusters of Agenda 21;

10. *Encourages* the continuing participation of ministers in the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, including those responsible for development, planning, finance and trade in the high-level meetings of the Commission;

11. *Calls upon* the Commission on Sustainable Development, in accordance with chapter 38 of Agenda 21, to develop close and clear relationships with other relevant international organizations and entities, such as the conferences of parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,⁶⁷ the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁶⁸ and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,⁴² and the Global Environment Facility, in order to increase its effectiveness in monitoring the implementation of Agenda 21 and other decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

12. *Urges* the international community, in particular the donor countries, to make efforts to strengthen further the funding capacity of international financial institutions, regional banks and other international organizations, and emphasizes that greater efforts need to be made by them effectively and demonstrably to provide resources for the implementation of Agenda 21;

13. *Recommends* that members of international financial institutions take the necessary steps, through their respective governing bodies, to ensure that their programmes and activities better reflect Agenda 21, particularly in order to respond to the needs of developing countries;

14. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development to draw up a matrix of policy options and financial instruments and mechanisms that would facilitate the formulation of optimal financing strategies for each of the sectoral clusters under review;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to promote further the involvement of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development in the work of the Commission, through more direct involvement of the members of the Board, in their expert capacity, in the informal meetings of the Commission and in its inter-sessional meetings, as well as to arrange briefing sessions open to all interested parties to highlight the outcome of the Board's meetings, with a view to increasing the transparency of its work and improving communication and interchange between the Board and the Commission;

16. *Underlines* the need for balanced, transparent and coherent inter-sessional processes, which are participatory in nature, to facilitate the work of the Commission and its ad hoc working groups, and expresses its appreciation to the various inter-sessional initiatives of national Governments and international organizations;

17. *Also underlines* the need for an effective follow-up to the decisions taken by the Commission at its second session, and notes the commitments expressed by members to follow up their inter-sessional initiatives in order to contribute to a comprehensive review of Agenda 21 in 1997;

18. *Notes* the indispensable role that major groups play in the implementation of Agenda 21, and encourages them to contribute to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

19. *Also notes* the work of the Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development and its task managers, and invites the Secretary-General to make reports of the Committee available to the Commission;

⁶⁷ A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

⁶⁶ The report of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development shows a decrease by 10 per cent in official development assistance.

⁶⁸ See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, relevant intergovernmental organizations, agencies, programmes and bodies within and outside the United Nations system, and relevant non-governmental organizations.

*92nd plenary meeting
19 December 1994*

49/112. Support for the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) programme

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the continuing deterioration of the global environment at all levels, due to the impact of constantly increasing human activity, remains a serious concern requiring further attention, including enhanced awareness and intensified action,

Recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it endorsed the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including Agenda 21,⁶⁹

Taking note, in particular, of chapter 25 of Agenda 21 entitled "Children and youth in sustainable development", chapter 36 entitled "Promoting education, public awareness and training", and chapter 40 entitled "Information for decision-making", which call for greater efforts to involve youth, promote public awareness and enhance the collection and exchange of environmental data in support of the pursuit of sustainable development,

Noting the recent entry into force of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁶⁷ and the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁶⁸ the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,⁶⁹ and the recent successful conclusion of negotiations on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,⁴² which require for their effective implementation much greater and more effective collection and exchange of relevant environmental data,

Recalling its resolution 48/192 of 21 December 1993 on strengthening international cooperation in the monitoring of global environmental problems,

Convinced of the need to inspire the youth of the world with enthusiasm for the conservation, preservation and protection of all aspects of the global environment and in the pursuit of sustainable development, and to provide encouragement and support for their participation in that effort,

1. *Welcomes* the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) programme initiated by the Government of the United States of America on 22 April 1994, which aims to enhance the collective awareness of individuals throughout the world concerning the environment, increase scientific understanding of the Earth and help all students reach the highest standards in science and mathematics education;

2. *Also welcomes* the willingness expressed by many Governments to participate in shaping and carrying out the GLOBE initiative;

3. *Encourages* Governments, organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to

take part, as appropriate, in the development and implementation of the GLOBE initiative, with full regard for sovereign national rights and interests and within the respective mandates of the organs, organizations and programmes concerned, including in the pursuit of sustainable development;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that appropriate account is taken of the GLOBE initiative in the efforts of the United Nations system to support the implementation of Agenda 21, particularly in the coordinating functions of the Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development of the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

5. *Requests* that the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Commission on Sustainable Development, take full account of the GLOBE initiative, within the context of sustainable development, in reviewing and promoting the implementation of Agenda 21;

6. *Invites* Governments to communicate information to the Commission on Sustainable Development, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, on their participation in the GLOBE programme within the implementation of Agenda 21, especially with regard to its chapters 25, 36 and 40.

*92nd plenary meeting
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49/113. Dissemination of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

The General Assembly,

Reiterating that the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development⁷⁰ contains fundamental principles for the achievement of sustainable development, based on a new and equitable global partnership, and reaffirming Agenda 21,³

Conscious of the fact that dissemination of the principles contained in the Declaration will contribute to increasing public awareness of the need to take a balanced and integrated approach to development and environment questions,

Aware of the fact that dissemination of the principles contained in the Declaration can stimulate increased national and international efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries,

Taking into account its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, in particular its paragraph 4 (a), in which it recommended that the Commission on Sustainable Development promote the incorporation of the principles of the Declaration in the implementation of Agenda 21, and recalling paragraphs 32 and 42 of chapter I of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its first session,⁷⁰

Recalling its resolution 48/190 of 21 December 1993 and noting that the ministers and other participants at the high-level meetings of the first and second sessions of the Commission emphasized the need to promote broad dissemination of the principles of the Declaration at all levels with a view to promoting public awareness regarding sustainable development,⁷¹

1. *Urges* all Governments to promote widespread dissemination at all levels of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

⁶⁹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 5 (E/1993/25/Rev.1), part two.*

⁶⁹ *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.*

⁷¹ *Ibid.*, chap. II, para. 17, and *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 13 (E/1994/33/Rev.1), chap. II.*