



General Assembly

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Agenda item 20 (i)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2010

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/65/436/Add.9)]

65/164. Harmony with Nature

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,¹ Agenda 21,² the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,³ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁴ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”),⁵

Recalling its resolution 64/196 of 21 December 2009 on Harmony with Nature and its resolution 63/278 of 22 April 2009, by which it designated 22 April as International Mother Earth Day,

Recalling also the 1982 World Charter for Nature,⁶

Recalling further its resolution 47/193 of 22 December 1992, by which it declared 22 March the World Day for Water, its resolution 49/114 of 19 December 1994, by which it proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, its resolution 55/201 of 20 December 2000, in which it proclaimed 22 May the International Day for Biological Diversity, its resolution 61/193 of 20 December 2006 on the International Year of Forests, 2011, and its resolution 64/253 of 23 February 2010, entitled “International Day of Nowruz”,

Noting the first Peoples’ World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, hosted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in Cochabamba from 20 to 22 April 2010,

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ Resolution S-19/2, annex.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁵ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

⁶ Resolution 37/7, annex.



Stressing the importance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Brazil in 2012,

Expressing its concern about the documented environmental degradation and the negative impact on nature resulting from human activity,

Recognizing that gross domestic product is not an adequate indicator for measuring environmental degradation resulting from human activity,

Recognizing also that many ancient civilizations and indigenous cultures have a rich history of understanding the symbiotic connection between human beings and nature that fosters a mutually beneficial relationship,

Recognizing further the work undertaken by civil society, academia and scientists in regard to signalling the precariousness of life on Earth, as well as their efforts to devise a more sustainable model for production and consumption,

Considering that sustainable development is a holistic concept that requires the strengthening of interdisciplinary linkages in the different branches of knowledge,

1. *Takes note* of the first report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature;⁷

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene, at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, an interactive dialogue, to be held at two plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 20 April 2011, with the participation of Member States, United Nations organizations, independent experts and other stakeholders, to actively and effectively contribute to and support efforts in the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Brazil in 2012, on the following topics:

(a) Ways to promote a holistic approach to sustainable development in harmony with nature;

(b) Sharing national experiences on criteria and indicators for measuring sustainable development in harmony with nature;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund for the participation of independent experts in the interactive dialogue to be held at two plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 20 April 2011, and invites Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider contributing to this fund;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to make use of the existing information portals on sustainable development maintained by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to gather information and contributions on ideas and activities to promote a holistic approach to sustainable development in harmony with nature being undertaken to advance the integration of scientific interdisciplinary work, including success stories on the use of traditional knowledge, and existing national legislation, with a view to making substantive contributions to the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and beyond;

⁷ A/65/314.

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*69th plenary meeting
20 December 2010*