

(XXIII) of 17 December 1968, 2525 (XXIV) of 5 December 1969, 2690 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 and 2812 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971,

Decides to preserve the original functions of the United Nations Capital Development Fund until 31 December 1973, in accordance with the measures set forth in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 2321 (XXII).

2109th plenary meeting
14 December 1972

2994 (XXVII). United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the responsibility of the international community to take action to preserve and enhance the environment and, in particular, the need for continuous international co-operation to this end,

Recalling its resolutions 2398 (XXIII) of 3 December 1968, 2581 (XXIV) of 15 December 1969, 2657 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2849 (XXVI) and 2850 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,³³ held at Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, and the report of the Secretary-General thereon,³⁴

Expressing its satisfaction that the Conference and the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment succeeded in focusing the attention of Governments and public opinion on the need for prompt action in the field of the environment,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment;

2. *Draws the attention* of Governments and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme³⁵ to the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment³⁶ and refers the Action Plan for the Human Environment³⁷ to the Governing Council for appropriate action;

3. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the recommendations for action at the national level referred to them by the Conference for their consideration and such action as they might deem appropriate;

4. *Designates* 5 June as World Environment Day and urges Governments and the organizations in the United Nations system to undertake on that day every year world-wide activities reaffirming their concern for the preservation and enhancement of the environment, with a view to deepening environmental awareness and to pursuing the determination expressed at the Conference;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of resolution 4 (I) of 15 June 1972³⁸ adopted by the Conference on the convening of a second United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and refers this matter to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme with the request that the Council study

³³ A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1.

³⁴ A/8783 and Add.1, Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2.

³⁵ See resolution 2997 (XXVII), sect. I.

³⁶ A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1, chap. I.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, chap. II.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, chap. IV.

this matter, taking into account the status of implementation of the Action Plan and future developments in the field of the environment, and report its views and recommendations to the General Assembly so that the Assembly can take a decision on all aspects of the matter not later than at its twenty-ninth session.

2112th plenary meeting
15 December 1972

2995 (XXVII). Co-operation between States in the field of the environment

The General Assembly,

Having considered principle 20 as contained in the draft text of a preamble and principles of the declaration on the human environment,³⁹ referred to it for consideration by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

Recalling its resolution 2849 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 entitled "Development and environment",

Bearing in mind that, in exercising their sovereignty over their natural resources, States must seek, through effective bilateral and multilateral co-operation or through regional machinery, to preserve and improve the environment,

1. *Emphasizes that*, in the exploration, exploitation and development of their natural resources, States must not produce significant harmful effects in zones situated outside their national jurisdiction;

2. *Recognizes* that co-operation between States in the field of the environment, including co-operation towards the implementation of principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,⁴⁰ will be effectively achieved if official and public knowledge is provided of the technical data relating to the work to be carried out by States within their national jurisdiction, with a view to avoiding significant harm that may occur in the environment of the adjacent area;

3. *Further recognizes* that the technical data referred to in paragraph 2 above will be given and received in the best spirit of co-operation and good-neighbourliness, without this being construed as enabling each State to delay or impede the programmes and projects of exploration, exploitation and development of the natural resources of the States in whose territories such programmes and projects are carried out.

2112th plenary meeting
15 December 1972

2996 (XXVII). International responsibility of States in regard to the environment

The General Assembly,

Recalling principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment⁴¹ concerning the international responsibility of States in regard to the environment,

Bearing in mind that those principles lay down the basic rules governing this matter,

³⁹ See A/CONF.48/4, annex. See also A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1, chap. X, sect. D.

⁴⁰ A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1, chap. I.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

Declares that no resolution adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly can affect principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

2112th plenary meeting
15 December 1972

2997 (XXVII). Institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental co-operation

The General Assembly,

Convinced of the need for prompt and effective implementation by Governments and the international community of measures designed to safeguard and enhance the environment for the benefit of present and future generations of man,

Recognizing that responsibility for action to protect and enhance the environment rests primarily with Governments and, in the first instance, can be exercised more effectively at the national and regional levels,

Recognizing further that environmental problems of broad international significance fall within the competence of the United Nations system,

Bearing in mind that international co-operative programmes in the field of the environment must be undertaken with due respect for the sovereign rights of States and in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and principles of international law,

Mindful of the sectoral responsibilities of the organizations in the United Nations system,

Conscious of the significance of regional and sub-regional co-operation in the field of the environment and of the important role of the regional economic commissions and other regional intergovernmental organizations,

Emphasizing that problems of the environment constitute a new and important area for international co-operation and that the complexity and interdependence of such problems require new approaches,

Recognizing that the relevant international scientific and other professional communities can make an important contribution to international co-operation in the field of the environment,

Conscious of the need for processes within the United Nations system which would effectively assist developing countries to implement environmental policies and programmes that are compatible with their development plans and to participate meaningfully in international environmental programmes,

Convinced that, in order to be effective, international co-operation in the field of the environment requires additional financial and technical resources,

Aware of the urgent need for a permanent institutional arrangement within the United Nations system for the protection and improvement of the environment,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,⁴²

I

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

1. *Decides* to establish a Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, composed of fifty-eight members elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms on the following basis:

- (a) Sixteen seats for African States;
- (b) Thirteen seats for Asian States;
- (c) Six seats for Eastern European States;
- (d) Ten seats for Latin American States;
- (e) Thirteen seats for Western European and other States;

2. *Decides* that the Governing Council shall have the following main functions and responsibilities:

(a) To promote international co-operation in the field of the environment and to recommend, as appropriate, policies to this end;

(b) To provide general policy guidance for the direction and co-ordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

(c) To receive and review the periodic reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, referred to in section II, paragraph 2, below, on the implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

(d) To keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments;

(e) To promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information and, as appropriate, to the technical aspects of the formulation and implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

(f) To maintain under continuing review the impact of national and international environmental policies and measures on developing countries, as well as the problem of additional costs that may be incurred by developing countries in the implementation of environmental programmes and projects, and to ensure that such programmes and projects shall be compatible with the development plans and priorities of those countries;

(g) To review and approve annually the programme of utilization of resources of the Environment Fund referred to in section III below;

3. *Decides* that the Governing Council shall report annually to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, which will transmit to the Assembly such comments on the report as it may deem necessary, particularly with regard to questions of co-ordination and to the relationship of environmental policies and programmes within the United Nations system to overall economic and social policies and priorities;

II

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARIAT

1. *Decides* that a small secretariat shall be established in the United Nations to serve as a focal point for environmental action and co-ordination within the

⁴² A/8783 and Add.1, Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2.