

implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Reiterating its concern about the continued negative impacts of desertification on the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region, and emphasizing again the need to accelerate the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,¹⁴⁵

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the progress made by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, in assisting the Governments of the region in implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in a joint venture between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme;

3. *Invites* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen further their support for the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in order to enable it to respond more adequately to the pressing needs of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region;

4. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Governments, agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and other organizations that have contributed to the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

5. *Urges* all Governments to respond favourably to requests for assistance from the Governments of the Sudano-Sahelian region in combating desertification;

6. *Requests* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to report annually to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

113th plenary meeting
20 December 1982

37/217. International co-operation in the field of the environment

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its tenth session,¹⁴⁶

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/56 of 29 July 1982 on international co-operation on the environment,

Taking into account the note by the Secretary-General on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment,¹⁴⁷

Recalling its resolution 36/192 of 17 December 1981, in which it reaffirmed the catalytic mandate and role of the United Nations Environment Programme and stressed the need for additional resources to be made available to the

Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme so that the developing countries may deal with their most serious environmental problems, such as soil degradation and deforestation, which are examples of very severe deterioration of natural resources calling for particular attention,

Bearing in mind the importance that the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade attaches to an ecologically sustainable development process and the need for further international co-operation in the field of the environment,¹⁴⁸ and taking into account the fact that environmental considerations should be viewed in the context of national plans and priorities and development objectives of both developing and developed countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its tenth session and the decisions contained therein;¹⁴⁹

2. *Welcomes* Governing Council decision 10/13 of 31 May 1982 by which the Council approved the structure and objectives of the system-wide medium-term environment programme and took note of its general content, appealed to Governments to continue to give support to the development and implementation of the programme and to take the necessary decisions in that regard in the appropriate governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system, and urged other organizations of the United Nations system to continue their close co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme in the further refinement and implementation of the system-wide programme;

3. *Welcomes also* Governing Council decision 10/4 of 31 May 1982, in which the Council, *inter alia*, requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to identify areas for co-operation among developing countries in the field of the environment, and also to identify expertise and institutions in developing countries capable of fostering that co-operation, as well as developing activities for horizontal co-operation based on such identification;

4. *Welcomes further* Governing Council decisions 10/6 of 31 May 1982, concerning ways and means of enabling the United Nations Environment Programme to assist developing countries in addressing their serious environmental problems, and 10/26 of 31 May 1982, concerning the provision of a mechanism within the existing structure of the United Nations Environment Programme for assisting developing countries in dealing with their serious environmental problems using voluntary resources additional to those available to the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, *inter alia*, through counterpart contributions, urges Governments in a position to do so to provide assistance to that mechanism and expresses the hope that measures to be taken pursuant to those decisions will contribute to the effective implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 36/192 and, in general, those of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade with respect to ecologically sustainable development;

5. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Governing Council, in its decision 10/21 of 31 May 1982, of the programme for the development and periodic review of environmental law¹⁵⁰ and the measures to be taken for the early effective implementation of that programme;

¹⁴⁵ Report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, Nairobi, 29 August-9 September 1977 (A/CONF.74/36), chap. I.

¹⁴⁶ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25), part two.

¹⁴⁷ A/37/394.

¹⁴⁸ See resolution 35/56, annex, para. 41.

¹⁴⁹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25), part two, annex.

¹⁵⁰ See UNEP/GC.10/5/Add.2 and Corr.1 and 2.

6. *Takes note* of Governing Council decision 10/14 of 31 May 1982 on programme matters, comprising seven specific sections, and in this context:

(a) *Takes note* of the progress report on co-operation in the field of the environment concerning natural resources shared by two or more States,¹⁵¹ reiterates the terms of its resolution 34/186 of 18 December 1979 as a whole, and requests the Governing Council to submit a further progress report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

(b) *Takes note* of the conclusions of the study of the legal aspects concerning the environment related to offshore mining and drilling within the limits of national jurisdiction, made by the Working Group of Experts on Environmental Law,¹⁵² and of the views of the Governments thereon,¹⁵³ recommends that Governments should consider the guidelines contained in the conclusions when formulating national legislation or undertaking negotiations for the conclusion of international agreements for the prevention of pollution of the marine environment caused by offshore mining and drilling within the limits of national jurisdiction, and requests the Governing Council to submit to the General Assembly at its fortieth session a progress report on the use made of those conclusions;

(c) *Takes note* of the endorsement by the Governing Council, in section III of its decision 10/14, of the World Soils Policy,¹⁵⁴ and invites Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other appropriate international organizations to take into account the objectives of the World Soils Policy in formulating relevant national policies and programmes of work;

(d) *Takes note* of the action agreed by the Governing Council, in section I of its decision 10/14, on the future work with regard to the potential socio-economic impact of increased carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere;

7. *Also takes note* of Governing Council decision 10/20 of 31 May 1982 on expansion and implementation of the regional seas programme;

8. *Further takes note* of Governing Council decision 10/7 of 28 May 1982 on the impact of *apartheid* on the environment aimed at promoting public awareness of the plight of the victims of *apartheid*;

9. *Expresses the view* that arrangements for the regional presence of the United Nations Environment Programme should take fully into account the specific situations and needs of the various regions, in accordance with Governing Council decision 10/2 of 31 May 1982 on the regional presence of the Programme;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* to Governments that have contributed to the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, particularly those that have maintained or increased the real value of their contributions;

11. *Expresses its concern* over the continued decline, in real terms, of the resources available to the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and the increasing trend towards late payment of pledged contributions, reiterates its appeal to Governments to increase their contributions to the Fund and appeals to all Governments that have not yet pledged contributions to the Fund for the years 1982 and 1983 to do so as soon as possible.

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¹⁵¹ A/37/396 and Corr.1, annex.

¹⁵² See UNEP/GC.9/5/Add.5, annex III.

¹⁵³ See UNEP/GC.10/5, annex I.

¹⁵⁴ See UNEP/GC.10/5/Add.4, annex III.

37/218. Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/172 of 19 December 1977, 33/89 of 15 December 1978, 34/184 and 34/185 of 18 December 1979 and 35/73 of 5 December 1980, dealing with the various aspects of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,¹⁵⁵

Taking note of the relevant section of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its tenth session,¹⁵⁶ in particular section VII of Council decision 10/14 of 31 May 1982¹⁵⁷ on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Taking into account paragraphs 8 to 10 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/56 of 29 July 1982,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/73,¹⁵⁸

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

2. *Expresses its deep concern* at the slow implementation of the Plan of Action owing to the lack of adequate financial resources;

3. *Urges* all Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental and all other organizations to augment their efforts to prevent and combat desertification in order to accelerate progress in implementing the recommendations of the Plan of Action for immediate initial action;

4. *Encourages* Governments of countries affected by desertification to accord the combating of desertification high priority in their development plans and in their requests for development assistance;

5. *Calls upon* the Consultative Group for Desertification Control to intensify further its efforts to assist the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Plan of Action.

*113th plenary meeting
20 December 1982*

37/219. Session of a special character of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 35/74 of 5 December 1980 and 36/189 of 17 December 1981, in which it decided to convene a session of a special character of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at Nairobi from 10 to 18 May 1982 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972,

¹⁵⁵ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, Nairobi, 29 August-9 September 1977 (A/CONF.74/36), chap. I.*

¹⁵⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25), part two, chap. II, sect. G.*

¹⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, part two, annex.

¹⁵⁸ A/37/395, annex.