

(b) To initiate immediately, in consultation with all concerned United Nations organizations, an examination of the progress made thus far in the decentralization of United Nations activities and to report thereon to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council, with a view to determining the specific authorities, responsibilities and resources that should be decentralized and the timing of such decentralization;

(c) To take practical measures aimed at strengthening liaison functions between the United Nations Headquarters and the regional commissions, bearing in mind the role of the Regional Commissions Liaison Office;

(d) To ensure that the necessary measures proposed by the Secretary-General are undertaken to implement recommendations 6 to 8 of the Joint Inspection Unit,¹³⁵ in particular the speedy development of management services, in order to ensure that the Economic Commission for Africa functions at optimum efficiency and effectiveness bearing in mind the ongoing consultations;

4. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to institute, under the aegis of the Commission, regional subject-oriented and high-level inter-agency meetings to discuss common issues aimed at the development of firm guidelines for co-ordinated action towards attainment of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa;

5. *Urges* the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to increase the effectiveness of the programme of their exchanges of staff in order to foster the broader scheme of interregional co-operation;

6. *Requests* organizations of the United Nations system to assist African Governments, within the framework of the country programming process, in incorporating the goals and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action into their sectoral country programmes and projects and adapting them to subregional and regional priorities;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

*113th plenary meeting
20 December 1982*

37/215. Remnants of war

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3435 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, 35/71 of 5 December 1980 and 36/188 of 17 December 1981 concerning the problem of remnants of war,

Recalling also decisions 80 (IV) of 9 April 1976,¹³⁶ 101 (V) of 25 May 1977,¹³⁷ 9/5 of 25 May 1981¹³⁸ and 10/8 of 28 May 1982,¹³⁹ of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling further resolution 32 of the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo from 16 to 19 August 1976,¹⁴⁰ and resolution 26/11-P of the Eleventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Islamabad from 17 to 22 May 1980,¹⁴¹

¹³⁶ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/31/25)*, annex I.

¹³⁷ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/32/25)*, annex I.

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/36/25 and Corr. 1)*, annex I.

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25)*, part two, annex.

¹⁴⁰ See A/31/197, annex IV, sect. B.

¹⁴¹ See A/35/419-S/14129, annex I.

Convinced that the responsibility for the removal of the remnants of war should be borne by the countries that planted them,

Recognizing that the presence of the material remnants of war, particularly mines, on the lands of developing countries seriously impedes their development efforts and causes loss of life and property,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the problem of remnants of war;¹⁴²

2. *Regrets* that no real measures have been taken to solve the problem of remnants of war despite the various resolutions and decisions adopted thereon by the General Assembly and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. *Reiterates its support* of the just demands of the States affected by the implantation of mines and the presence of other remnants of war on their lands for compensation from the States responsible for those remnants;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to prepare a factual study on the problem of remnants of war, particularly mines, which would include an analysis of the following aspects:

(a) The economic and environmental problems experienced by developing countries affected by remnants of war, the loss of life and property they have suffered, their specific demands in this respect and the extent to which the responsible States are willing to compensate the affected States and to assist them in solving the problem;

(b) The legal status of the problem;

(c) The international co-operation required to solve the problem;

(d) The role of the United Nations in this regard, including the possibility of convening a conference pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 35/71 and 36/188;

5. *Appeals* to all States, particularly those responsible for the presence of remnants of war, to co-operate with the Secretary-General in order to enable him to prepare the study requested in paragraph 4 above and to make specific and effective recommendations for solving the problem of remnants of war;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to submit the study in time for consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

*113th plenary meeting
20 December 1982*

37/216. Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 36/190 of 17 December 1981,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/55 of 29 July 1982,

Noting decision 10/18 of 31 May 1982 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme¹³⁹ and decisions 82/26 and 82/28 of 18 June 1982 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme,¹⁴³

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme¹⁴⁴ on the

¹⁴² A/37/415.

¹⁴³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1982, Supplement No. 6 (E/1982/16/Rev. 1)*, annex I.

¹⁴⁴ A/37/397, annex.

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.