

strategy for sustainable and environmentally sound development” under the agenda item entitled “Development and international economic co-operation”.

*96th plenary meeting
11 December 1987*

42/188. Countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 39/208 of 17 December 1984 and 40/175 of 17 December 1985, and its decision 41/454 of 8 December 1986,

Aware that the prime responsibility in the struggle against desertification and the effects of drought rests with the countries concerned, and that such action is an essential component of their long-term development,

Also aware that the problems of desertification and drought are increasingly assuming a structural and endemic character, and that real and permanent solutions must be found in a global effort based on concerted action by the stricken countries and the international community,

Recalling the commitment of African Governments, as expressed in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990,⁶⁰ to undertake and to continue as soon as possible measures to combat drought and desertification,

Recalling the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification adopted by the United Nations Conference on Desertification,⁵⁵ and taking note of decisions 14/15 A and B of 18 June 1987 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme⁴⁶ concerning desertification,

Recalling with satisfaction the active support and the commitment to action expressed forcefully by the international community, including the United Nations system, at the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly, on the critical economic situation in Africa,

Welcoming the initiative of the Government of Senegal in convening the Ministerial Conference for a joint policy to combat desertification in the countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Economic Community of West African States, in the Maghreb countries, in Egypt and in the Sudan (COMIDES), and recalling with satisfaction the results achieved and the resolutions adopted by the Conference at its first and second sessions, held at Dakar in July 1984,⁶¹ and in November 1985,⁶² which set up COMIDES as a ministerial consultation mechanism,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the proposals concerning concrete measures to be taken set out in the report of the Secretary-General on the countries stricken by desertification and drought;⁶³

2. *Takes note also* of the sustained and praiseworthy efforts made by the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel to combat desertification and drought, and of its fruitful co-operation with Governments and the organs and bodies of the United Nations system;

3. *Welcomes* the progress made since the establishment by six East African countries of the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development and invites the international community to continue to support the implementation of the Plan of Action of the six countries and to furnish them with sufficient financial and technical resources for this purpose;

4. *Appeals urgently* to the members of the international community, particularly donor countries, while strengthening their support for the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, to continue to support the Ministerial Conference for a joint policy to combat desertification, the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development;

5. *Reaffirms* the role of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in the co-ordination of the efforts of the United Nations to help the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development to carry out their programmes;

6. *Appeals* to all Governments to increase their support for the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, in particular by making voluntary contributions to it at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, but also by financing directly the projects sponsored by the Office, which enable it to respond to the priority needs of the Sudano-Sahelian countries;

7. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the establishment of the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification by the International Fund for Agricultural Development;⁶⁴

8. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the generosity and solidarity with which the international community has responded to the assistance needs resulting from the emergency in Africa, particularly with regard to food aid and its transport, medical assistance and the threat of grasshoppers and locusts;

9. *Also appeals* to all members of the international community, the organs and bodies of the United Nations, regional and subregional financial institutions, and non-governmental organizations to continue to give their full support in all forms, including financial and technical aid or any other form of assistance, to the development efforts of the countries stricken by desertification and drought;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1989, a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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⁶⁰ Resolution S-13/2, annex.

⁶¹ See A/39/530, annex.

⁶² See A/C.2/40/10, annex.

⁶³ A/41/346-E/1986/96, paras. 53-77.

⁶⁴ See IFAD, GC 9/L.7.