

3. *Endorses* the decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at its sixth session,¹¹³ taking into account the intergovernmental arrangements envisaged in recommendation 37 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;⁷¹

4. *Urges* all Member States, the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to give high priority in their particular fields of activity to the support and promotion of activities in technical co-operation among developing countries;

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

*85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989*

44/223. Tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries

The General Assembly,

Considering the importance of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,⁷¹

Concerned that the economic situation of developing countries, which has been aggravated over the past decade, has had an impact generally on international co-operation for development and on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

Recognizing, however, that developing countries have achieved significant progress in implementing the recommendations contained in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, and that technical co-operation among developing countries has gradually become a means through which they contribute to development,

1. *Reaffirms* the continued validity and importance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries;

2. *Emphasizes* the imperative need to strengthen the implementation of activities and projects for technical co-operation among developing countries through the increased allocation and utilization of financial resources, as appropriate, for the promotion and implementation of projects for technical co-operation among developing countries;

3. *Requests* the various parties participating in the promotion and implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries, particularly within the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions, to give the necessary priority to the support, encouragement and implementation of specific activities and projects, so that such co-operation will become a basic component of their policies for development;

4. *Urges* the international community, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, to be favourably disposed to the requests for technical and financial support presented to them for the implementation

of specific activities and projects of technical co-operation among developing countries;

5. *Reiterates* the need for developed countries and their international co-operation agencies to lend their firm support to technical co-operation among developing countries, in accordance with recommendations 35 and 36 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and in the context of recommendation 38 thereof.⁷¹

*85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989*

44/224. International co-operation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and in assistance in cases of environmental emergency

The General Assembly,

Convinced that one of the main global problems facing the world today is the deterioration of the environment,

Recalling its resolution 43/196 of 20 December 1988 on a United Nations conference on environment and development,

Aware that increasing environmental degradation caused by human activities has led in some cases to irreversible changes in the environment that threaten life-sustaining eco-systems and undermine the health, well-being, development prospects and very survival of life on the planet.

Also aware that potential environmental disasters, whether natural, accidental or caused by human beings, as well as accidents, could pose serious and immediate dangers to populations and to the economic development and environment of the affected countries and regions,

Convinced that through monitoring, assessment, anticipation and prompt multilateral response upon request, in particular on the part of the United Nations system, environmental threats could be minimized or even prevented,

Also convinced that early warning of emerging environmental threats and degradation would help Governments to take preventive action,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme to develop criteria for the identification of environmental threats at the national, regional and global levels,

Stressing the need for close co-operation between all countries, in particular through a broad exchange of information, scientific knowledge and experience as well as transfer of technology, in monitoring, assessing and anticipating environmental threats, dealing with environmental emergencies and rendering timely assistance, at the request of Governments, in accordance with respective national laws, regulations and policies and taking into account the particular needs and requirements of the developing countries,

Affirming the need, in this context, for closer co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, as well as other competent organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, bearing in mind the co-ordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme in environmental matters in the United Nations system,

Noting that other proposals have been made on strengthening and improving the effectiveness within the United Nations system of international co-operation in monitor-

¹¹³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/44/39), annex I.*

ing, assessing and anticipating environmental threats and the rendering of timely assistance in cases of environmental emergency,

1. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen international co-operation in monitoring, assessing and anticipating environmental threats and rendering assistance in cases of environmental emergency;

2. *Reaffirms* that, owing to its universal character, the United Nations system, through the General Assembly, is the appropriate forum for concerted political action on global environmental problems;

3. *Underlines* the importance of broader participation in Earthwatch, established by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment¹¹⁴ and operated by the United Nations Environment Programme, in order to strengthen its capacity to make authoritative assessments, to anticipate environmental degradation and to issue early warnings to the international community;

4. *Reaffirms* that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources in accordance with their environmental policies, and also reaffirms their responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction as well as to play their due role in preserving and protecting the global and regional environment in accordance with their capacities and specific responsibilities;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, assisted by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to prepare a report, on the basis of the views of Member States and existing national and international legislation in this field, containing proposals and recommendations on possible ways and means to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations:

(a) To monitor, assess and anticipate environmental threats;

(b) To define criteria for determining when environmental degradation undermines health, well-being, development prospects and the very survival of life on the planet to such an extent that international co-operation may be required, if requested;

(c) To issue early warnings to the international community when such degradation becomes imminent;

(d) To facilitate intergovernmental co-operation in monitoring, assessing and anticipating environmental threats;

(e) To assist Governments facing environmental emergencies, at their request;

(f) To mobilize financial resources and technical co-operation to fulfil the tasks listed in paragraphs 5 (a) to (e) of the present resolution, taking into account the needs of the countries concerned, particularly the developing countries;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme the report called for in paragraph 5 of the present resolution for consideration during the preparatory process for the United Nations conference on environment and development;

7. *Invites* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to consider that report and to present its views thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council.

*85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989*

44/225. Large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas

The General Assembly,

Noting that many countries are disturbed by the increase in the use of large-scale pelagic driftnets, which can reach or exceed 30 miles (48 kilometres) in total length, to catch living marine resources on the high seas of the world's oceans and seas,

Mindful that large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing, a method of fishing with a net or a combination of nets intended to be held in a more or less vertical position by floats and weights, the purpose of which is to enmesh fish by drifting on the surface of or in the water, can be a highly indiscriminate and wasteful fishing method that is widely considered to threaten the effective conservation of living marine resources, such as highly migratory and anadromous species of fish, birds and marine mammals,

Drawing attention to the fact that the present resolution does not address the question of small-scale driftnet fishing traditionally conducted in coastal waters, especially by developing countries, which provides an important contribution to their subsistence and economic development,

Expressing concern that, in addition to targeted species of fish, non-targeted fish, marine mammals, seabirds and other living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas can become entangled in large-scale pelagic driftnets, either in those in active use or in those that are lost or discarded, and as a result of such entanglement are often either injured or killed,

Recognizing that more than one thousand fishing vessels use large-scale pelagic driftnets in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans and in other areas of the high seas,

Recognizing also that any regulatory measure to be taken for the conservation and management of living marine resources should take account of the best available scientific data and analysis,

Recalling the relevant principles elaborated in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,⁹⁰

Affirming that, in accordance with the relevant articles of the Convention, all members of the international community have a duty to co-operate globally and regionally in the conservation and management of living resources on the high seas, and a duty to take, or to co-operate with others in taking, such measures for their nationals as may be necessary for the conservation of those resources,

Recalling that, in accordance with the relevant articles of the Convention, it is the responsibility of all members of the international community to ensure the conservation and management of living marine resources and the protection and preservation of the living marine environment within their exclusive economic zones,

Noting the serious concern, particularly among coastal States and States with fishing interests, that the overexploitation of living marine resources of the high seas adjacent to the exclusive economic zones of coastal States is likely to have an adverse impact on the same resources

¹¹⁴ See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum).