

debtedness and alleviate the political and social costs of structural adjustment programmes and adjustment fatigue, thus contributing to the restoration of their economic growth, development and credit-worthiness;

9. *Expresses deep concern* that the overall indebtedness of the debtor developing countries has persisted and often increased, that their growth and development are severely limited and that their economic and social prospects continue to be a cause of serious concern;

10. *Stresses* the urgent need for the broadest implementation of the recent initiatives;

11. *Emphasizes* that in order to ensure that the recent initiatives, in particular those for debt reduction, in conjunction with appropriate economic policies and a favourable international environment, have an effective and comprehensive impact on the reactivation of economic growth and sustained development in the developing countries, the following measures would be required:

(a) Financial packages should be negotiated that are adequate to support growth-oriented adjustment programmes, including, as appropriate, debt reduction, debt-service reduction, new lending and other measures, so that the financial obligations and payment capacity of individual debtor countries are made more compatible; the combination of these elements should lead to the release of sufficient resources to generate higher levels of investment, the resumption of vigorous growth and development and the satisfaction of the needs of the populations;

(b) Creditor Governments should review tax, regulatory and accounting practices in order to remove unnecessary obstacles with respect to new lending to developing countries and to debt reduction and debt-service reduction in order to ensure that a supportive policy environment is achieved and maintained;

(c) The medium-term and long-term perspective of the rescheduling process should be enhanced by ensuring that it takes fully into account the policies and programmes oriented towards development and adjustment with growth that are formulated by each country concerned; in this context, consideration should be given, where appropriate, to rescheduling agreements on a multi-year basis;

(d) The Governments of member countries of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other multilateral financial institutions should ensure that these institutions have adequate resources for the full discharge of their mandates, including, where appropriate, their role in the implementation of recent initiatives;

(e) Serious consideration should continue to be given to mutually agreed ways and means of assisting debtor developing countries faced with large and bunched debts to the multilateral financial institutions;

(f) The parties concerned should continue to exercise increased flexibility in the development of innovative approaches, including those devised by banks and debtors, to take advantage of discounts prevailing in secondary markets;

(g) All those involved should take into account the above, as appropriate, in working towards a growth-oriented solution to the problems of external indebtedness of developing countries that are facing serious debt-servicing problems, including those whose debt is mainly to official creditors or multilateral institutions;

12. *Stresses* that a durable solution to the debt problems and the revival of growth and sustained development in the developing countries require, *inter alia*, the following:

(a) All Governments should work towards a more open international trading system that improves access, especially for the export products of developing countries, particularly in the context of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, launched during the Special Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, held at Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 15 to 20 September 1986;

(b) Increased efforts should be directed to the diversification of exports of developing countries in order to enable them to achieve more stable earnings; strengthened existing compensatory financing arrangements for shortfalls in export earnings from commodities can facilitate this process;

(c) External resources should be increased to complement domestic measures conducive to capital formation in developing countries with insufficient savings and inadequate flow of resources from abroad;

(d) Industrialized countries should intensify efforts to continue structural adjustment, maintain the vigour of their expansion while reducing and/or containing inflation and work towards a mix of fiscal and monetary policies that would allow interest rates to come down, and hence induce a more favourable international economic climate;

(e) It is essential for debtor developing countries to pursue and intensify their efforts to raise savings and investment, reduce inflation and improve efficiency, taking into account their own individual characteristics and the vulnerability of the poorer strata of their populations;

(f) Coherent and co-ordinated policies should be developed on the part of the industrialized countries, including multilateral surveillance, aimed at addressing the imbalances in the world economy;

13. *Recognizes* that the external indebtedness of some other countries with serious debt-servicing problems also gives rise to considerable concern, and invites all those involved to take into account, as appropriate, the provisions of the present resolution in addressing those problems and in working towards a growth-oriented solution to the external debt problems;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including an assessment of the impact of the external debt crisis on the availability of resources for the growth and socio-economic development of developing countries.

85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989

44/206. Possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/202 of 11 December 1987 and 43/53 of 6 December 1988,

Aware of the potential global problem of sea-level rise, which could adversely affect islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas,

Recognizing the need for further scientific study of climate change, including the possibility of sea-level rise induced by global warming,

Noting the ongoing work within the United Nations system, in particular within the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and

the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, on the potential global problem of sea-level rise, and taking note, in this connection, of decision 15/36 of 25 May 1989 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on global climate change,⁴⁷

Noting also the concern expressed in the Final Communiqué of the Twentieth South Pacific Forum, held at Tarawa, Kiribati, on 10 and 11 July 1989, at the possible effects on island countries of rising sea levels resulting from global warming,⁴⁸

Noting further the support expressed in the Langkawi Declaration on Environment, adopted by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on 21 October 1989, for low-lying and island countries in their efforts to protect themselves and their vulnerable natural marine ecosystems from the effects of sea-level rise,⁴⁹

Taking note of the Malé Declaration on Global Warming and Sea Level Rise, adopted by the Small States Conference on Sea Level Rise, held at Malé, Maldives, from 14 to 18 November 1989,⁵⁰ in which the participants declared their intent to work, collaborate and seek international co-operation to protect the low-lying small coastal and island States of the world from the dangers posed by climate change, global warming and sea-level rise,

Expressing concern that sea-level rise resulting from global climate change could lead, *inter alia*, to abnormally high tides, which could intensify flooding and the erosion of coastal areas and damage infrastructure on islands and in low-lying coastal areas,

1. *Welcomes* the growing attention being given worldwide to the potentially serious effects on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas, of sea-level rise resulting from climate change;

2. *Urges* the international community to provide effective and timely support to countries affected by sea-level rise, particularly developing countries, in their efforts to develop and implement strategies to protect themselves and their vulnerable natural marine ecosystems from the particular threats of sea-level rise caused by climate change;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and, through them, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to take account in their work of the particular situation of islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas, by undertaking further scientific studies and by seeking ways to address the problems of sea-level rise, *inter alia*, by providing expertise, as requested, in accordance with their specific mandates, for improved management of coastal zones;

4. *Recommends* that the vulnerability of affected countries and their marine ecosystems to sea-level rise be considered during discussions of a draft framework convention on climate as well as within the framework of the United Nations conference on environment and development to be held in 1992 and during the preparatory process for the conference;

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

and Social Council and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme.

85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989

44/207. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/53 of 6 December 1988, in which it recognized climate change as a common concern of mankind,

Taking note of decision 15/36 of 25 May 1989 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on global climate change,⁴⁷

Taking note of the message of the Chairman of the Conference on Saving the Ozone Layer, held in London from 5 to 7 March 1989,⁵¹ the Declaration of The Hague endorsed by 24 heads of State or Government or their representatives at The Hague on 11 March 1989,⁵² the Helsinki Declaration on the Protection of the Ozone Layer adopted on 2 May 1989,⁵³ the relevant parts of the Langkawi Declaration on Environment issued by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on 21 October 1989,⁵⁴ the Declaration adopted at Noordwijk, the Netherlands, by the Ministerial Conference on Atmospheric Pollution and Climate Change, held on 6 and 7 November 1989,⁵⁵ and relevant parts of the Caracas Declaration adopted at the special ministerial meeting of the Group of Seventy-seven, held at Caracas from 21 to 23 June 1989,⁵⁶

Taking note of the relevant declarations and decisions adopted at intergovernmental regional meetings during 1989, including the Amazon Declaration, adopted by the Presidents of the States parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation at Manaus, Brazil, on 6 May 1989,⁵⁷ the Declaration of Brasilia, issued at the Sixth Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Brasilia on 30 and 31 March 1989,⁵⁸ and the relevant parts of the Final Communiqué of the Twentieth South Pacific Forum, held at Tarawa, Kiribati, on 10 and 11 July 1989,⁵⁹

Noting that, in the Economic Declaration adopted in Paris on 16 July 1989, at the Summit of the seven major industrial nations, the heads of State or Government of those countries and the President of the Commission of the European Communities supported the decision of the World Meteorological Organization to establish a global reference network to detect climate change, agreed that a framework convention on climate was urgently required and recognized that specific protocols with commitments could develop within this framework,⁶⁰

Taking note of the final documents of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989,⁶¹ which, *inter alia*, emphasized that necessary and timely action should be taken to deal with climate changes and their consequences within a global framework and, in this

⁴⁷ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/44/25)*, annex I.

⁴⁸ A/44/463, annex, para. 20.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 8 (k).

⁵⁰ A/C.2/44/7, annex.

⁵¹ See UNEP/OzL.Pro.1/5, para. 11.

⁵² A/44/340-E/1989/120, annex.

⁵³ UNEP/OzL.Pro.1/5, appendix I.

⁵⁴ A/44/673, annex.

⁵⁵ A/C.2/44/5, annex.

⁵⁶ A/44/361, annex.

⁵⁷ A/44/275-E/1989/79, annex.

⁵⁸ A/44/683, annex.

⁵⁹ A/44/463, annex.

⁶⁰ See A/C.2/44/11, annex, paras. 40-51.

⁶¹ A/44/551-S/20870, annex.