

United Nations or members of the specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly;

8. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments that have contributed to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and invites Governments to contribute urgently and generously to the Fund in order that the operation of the Fund may enable developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, to participate fully and effectively in the Conference and in its preparatory process, in accordance with section II, paragraph 15, of resolution 44/228;

9. *Calls upon* the United Nations Environment Programme and other organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to give full support to the preparatory process for the Conference and assist the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the implementation of the work programme, in conformity with resolution 44/228;

10. *Requests* the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to extend full co-operation to developing countries in order to ensure that appropriate preparations for the forthcoming sessions of the Preparatory Committee are made, in particular in all aspects relating to linkages between environment and development, including the identification of concrete measures and action to ensure that these issues are treated in a balanced and integrated way;

11. *Endorses* Preparatory Committee decision 1/7 of 29 August 1990 concerning the dates of the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee;⁸¹

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to ensure the timely submission to the Preparatory Committee at its second and third sessions of the reports requested at its first session;

13. *Takes note* of the provisions of Preparatory Committee decision 1/1 of 14 August 1990⁸¹ and authorizes the Preparatory Committee, without prejudice to the provisions of resolution 44/228, to continue to apply, for the purpose of the preparatory process, the provisional arrangements agreed upon in that decision concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process;

14. *Reiterates* that the Preparatory Committee shall review and assess ongoing negotiating processes in the field of the environment, and invites the forums involved in such processes to report regularly on their activities to the Preparatory Committee at its forthcoming sessions, in accordance with the guidelines and requirements established by the Preparatory Committee.

*71st plenary meeting
21 December 1990*

45/212. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988 and 44/207 of 22 December 1989, in which it recognized that climate change is a common concern of mankind,

and urging Governments and, as appropriate, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions, to collaborate in a concerted effort with the aim of preparing, as a matter of urgency, a framework convention on climate change, and other related instruments, containing appropriate commitments for action to combat climate change and its adverse effects, taking into account the most up-to-date, sound scientific knowledge and any existing uncertainties, as well as the particular needs and development priorities of developing countries,

Recalling also its resolution 44/206 of 22 December 1989 on the possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas,

Recalling further its resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and of the Executive Council of the World Meteorological Organization,

Taking note also of the recommendations and decisions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, adopted at its organizational session⁷⁹ and at its first session,⁸⁰

Noting the important work accomplished by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which has completed its first assessment report,

Noting also the relevant conclusions and recommendations on climate change adopted at various intergovernmental meetings during 1990,

Noting further the fact that the largest part of the current emission of pollutants into the environment originates in developed countries, and recognizing therefore that those countries have the main responsibility for combating such pollution,

Welcoming the fact that several countries and a regional economic integration organization have already taken measures or made specific commitments to address the problem of climate change and its effects through the stabilization and/or reduction of environmentally harmful emissions of greenhouse gases, and that other countries are contemplating doing so,

Noting that, pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 44/207, resolution 4 (EC-XLII) of 22 June 1990 of the Executive Council of the World Meteorological Organization and decision SS.II/3 of 3 August 1990, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its second special session,⁸² an *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Government Representatives to prepare for negotiations on a framework convention on climate change met at Geneva from 24 to 26 September 1990 and adopted a number of recommendations,⁸³

Recognizing the continuing need for scientific research into the sources and effects of climate change and its possible adverse impact, including the socio-economic consequences, and the effectiveness of possible response strategies, and recognizing also the import-

⁸² *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 25 (A/45/25), annex.

⁸³ A/45/696, annex I.

ance of the active participation of developing countries and the need to assist and co-operate with them in climate-related research and action,

1. *Decides* to establish a single intergovernmental negotiating process under the auspices of the General Assembly, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, for the preparation by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related instruments as might be agreed upon, taking into account proposals that may be submitted by States participating in the negotiating process, the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the results achieved at international meetings on the subject, including the Second World Climate Conference;

2. *Decides* that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee should be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly;

3. *Welcomes* the organization of a broad-based preparatory process at the national level involving, as appropriate, the scientific community, industry, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and other interested groups;

4. *Decides* that the first negotiating session should be held in Washington, D.C., in February 1991 and that, subject to review of the timetable at the end of each negotiating session and taking into account the schedule of other intergovernmental meetings on environment and development matters, in particular the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, further meetings should be held at Geneva and at Nairobi, in May/June, September and November/December 1991 and, as appropriate, between January and June 1992;

5. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the assistance of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, pending the establishment of an *ad hoc* secretariat for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, to convene, exceptionally, the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, to be held in Washington, D.C., in February 1991; the subsequent sessions of the Committee shall be convened by the *ad hoc* secretariat;

6. *Decides* that the maximum duration of each of the negotiating sessions should be two weeks;

7. *Considers* that the negotiations for the preparation of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related legal instruments as might be agreed upon, should be completed prior to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992 and opened for signature during the Conference;

8. *Reaffirms* the principles embodied in its resolutions 44/207 and 44/228, which take into account the

concerns of all States and the specific needs of developing countries;

9. *Takes account* of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Second World Climate Conference, held at Geneva from 29 October to 7 November 1990;⁸⁴

10. *Decides* to establish a special voluntary fund, administered by the head of the *ad hoc* secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to ensure that developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, as well as small island developing countries, are able to participate fully and effectively in the negotiating process, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations to contribute generously to the fund;

11. *Recommends* that, at the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, to be held in Washington, D.C., a Bureau consisting of a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur shall be elected, each of the five regional groups being represented by one member;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, as well as with the executive heads of United Nations bodies with expertise in the field of development, to establish as soon as possible at Geneva an *ad hoc* secretariat of appropriate size and quality, consisting mainly of Professional staff of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, taking into account the need to ensure that the work programmes of those two organizations are not negatively affected, to be co-ordinated by those two organizations in consultation and co-operation with the head of the *ad hoc* secretariat and supplemented by staff from other bodies of the United Nations system, as appropriate, in order to ensure that the *ad hoc* secretariat embodies the requisite technical expertise;

13. *Decides* that the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint as head of the *ad hoc* secretariat a senior official of an appropriate level, who shall act under the guidance of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

14. *Requests* the head of the *ad hoc* secretariat to co-operate closely with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to ensure that the Panel can respond to the needs and requests for objective scientific and technical advice made during the negotiating process;

15. *Also requests* the head of the *ad hoc* secretariat to make available, at the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, the first assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including its paper on legal measures, as well as the background documentation prepared for the Panel, as inputs for the negotiations, together with the Ministerial Declaration of the Second World Climate Conference⁸⁴ and other relevant documents;

16. *Requests* the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, through the *ad hoc* secretariat and taking

⁸⁴ A/45/696/Add.1, annex III.

into account the relevance of the negotiations to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to keep the Preparatory Committee for the Conference and the Secretary-General of the Conference, as well as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, regularly informed in a timely manner, through regular progress reports, of the progress of the negotiations;

17. *Also requests* the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to take into account, as appropriate, any relevant developments in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development that the Preparatory Committee may bring to its attention;

18. *Requests* the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, on behalf of the Committee, to submit a report to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 on the outcome of the negotiations, as well as on possible future steps in the field of climate change;

19. *Invites* relevant non-governmental organizations to make contributions to the negotiating process, as appropriate, on the understanding that these organizations shall not have any negotiating role during the process and taking into account decision 1/1 concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its first session;⁸¹

20. *Decides* that the negotiating process shall be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to a trust fund established specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations and administered by the head of the *ad hoc* secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

21. *Invites* the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including those in the field of development, to make appropriate contributions to the negotiating process, including its funding;

22. *Invites* Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations to contribute generously to the trust fund;

23. *Requests* the head of the *ad hoc* secretariat to prepare draft rules of procedure for consideration by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its first session;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the progress of the negotiations;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

*71st plenary meeting
21 December 1990*

45/213. International co-operation for the eradication of poverty in the developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988 and 44/212 of 22 December 1989, Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/47 of 27 May 1988 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/10 of 2 March 1989 concerning extreme poverty,⁸⁵

Recalling also the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990, as well as the Paris Declaration adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990,¹⁵

Recognizing that a broad consensus is emerging on strategies to be pursued towards the achievement of the goal of the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing also the severity of poverty problems in developing countries,

Agrees that the eradication of poverty in the developing countries is an objective of the highest priority, and consequently urges the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to formulate and implement forthwith, within their programmes and activities at all levels, necessary measures and actions to eradicate this distressing problem.

*71st plenary meeting
21 December 1990*

45/214. International debt crisis and development: enhanced international co-operation towards a durable solution to the external debt problems of developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/202 of 8 December 1986, 42/198 of 11 December 1987, 43/198 of 20 December 1988 and 44/205 of 22 December 1989,

Recalling also the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990, and taking note of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990,¹⁵

Recalling further Trade and Development Board resolutions 165 (S-IX) of 11 March 1978,⁴⁶ 222 (XXI) of

⁸⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 2 (I/1989/20)*, chap. II, sect. A.