

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing the above-mentioned report, to consult and co-operate with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people;

3. *Urges* all States to co-operate with the Secretary-General in this matter.

*101st plenary session
16 December 1976*

31/111. Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its fourth session,²⁴ and the statement of the Executive Director introducing the report,²⁵

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972,

Recalling also the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order²⁶ as well as the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,²⁷ which laid down the foundations of the new international economic order,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2013 (LXI) of 3 August 1976 relating to the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fourth session,

Reaffirming that there can be no sustained development or meaningful growth without a clear commitment at the same time to preserving the environment and promoting the rational use of natural resources, with an eye to the needs of future generations,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its fourth session;

2. *Endorses* paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2013 (LXI) inviting attention to decision 55 (IV) of 13 April 1976 of the Governing Council,²⁸ concerning the active participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparations for the United Nations Water Conference;

3. *Reaffirms* the belief expressed by the Governing Council in section III, paragraphs 1 and 2, of its decision 47 (IV) of 14 April 1976²⁸ that the environment should be a major consideration in international discussions on development;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the report of the Executive Director on the status of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme²⁹ and urges Governments to extend their continuing financial support to the Fund;

5. *Notes* the report of the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Executive Director

²⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/31/25).*

²⁵ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-first Session, Second Committee*, 19th meeting, paras. 1-20.

²⁶ Resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).

²⁷ Resolution 3281 (XXIX).

²⁸ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/31/25)*, annex I.

²⁹ UNEP/GC.57 and Corr.1.

on the study of the problem of the material remnants of war, particularly mines, and their effect on the environment³⁰ and requests the Governing Council to ensure its completion, taking into account the views expressed in the course of the consideration of this matter;

6. *Notes* the report of the Secretary-General on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment³¹ and reiterates the concern expressed in General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 that existing international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment have not yet received the wide acceptance and application they deserve.

*101st plenary meeting
16 December 1976*

31/112. Institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, particularly section IV thereof, in which it decided to review as appropriate, at the thirty-first session, the institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation,

Taking note of decision 78 (IV) of 14 April 1976 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,³²

Recalling that in its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 it established the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System,

1. *Endorses* the view of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme that the institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), namely, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, the environment secretariat, the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Environment Co-ordination Board, appear adequate and sound;

2. *Endorses also* the view expressed by the Governing Council in its decision 78 B (IV) that, in any decision about the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, the following elements relating to the place of environmental considerations within the system should be observed, strengthened and given institutional visibility:

The United Nations system should maintain, within a clearly identified institutional arrangement focused on the essential catalytic and co-ordinating role in the field of the environment, the capacity:

(a) To take responsibility for environmental issues of a global nature;

(b) To provide guidance and leadership in international environmental affairs;

(c) To offer suitable forums and facilities for treaty-making in the field of the environment at the global and regional levels;

³⁰ A/31/210.

³¹ A/31/211.

³² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/31/25)*, annex I.

(d) To identify, through the programmatic approach, emerging environmental problems and to propose solutions;

(e) To manage a separate environment fund as an integral part of the programmatic process;

(f) To advocate and articulate the interdependence of environment and development;

(g) To respond to the environmental problems of both developed and developing countries;

(h) To respond to the environmental problems of human settlements, which are an integral part of the human environment;

3. *Decides* to maintain at this stage the present arrangements, without prejudice to any decision the General Assembly might take as regards the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.

*101st plenary meeting
16 December 1976*

31/113. Specific measures to meet the need for a decent living environment for the most vulnerable groups of society

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, in its recommendations A.4, B.3, B.12, C.4, C.14, C.15 and E.4, called for specific measures to be taken to meet the need for a decent living environment for the most vulnerable groups of society,³³

Considering that human settlement policies are inseparable from the goals of the social and economic sectors, and that consequently solutions to the problems of such settlements must be conceived as an integral part of the development process of individual nations and the world community,

1. *Requests* Member States and the Secretary-General, when planning the implementation of the aforementioned recommendations adopted at Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, to bear in mind the measures that protect the decent living environment of the most vulnerable social groups, such as children, youth, the elderly and the handicapped, so that they may live in an environment which is equally accessible to all individuals;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the measures taken and the results obtained.

*101st plenary meeting
16 December 1976*

31/114. Collaboration between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations with regard to world-wide intercommunal co-operation

The General Assembly,

Recalling the results of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

Aware of the importance and global nature of the phenomenon of urbanization,

Noting that uncontrolled urbanization is one of the causes of the deterioration in living conditions in human settlements,

Stressing the need for harmonization of intergovernmental action and intercommunal action with regard to human settlements,

Recognizing the role that the competent non-governmental organizations can play in solving the problems facing local communities,

Noting that non-governmental organizations such as the United Towns Organization and the International Union of Local Authorities, which are in consultative status, in category I, with the Economic and Social Council, have offered their collaboration with the United Nations in the field of human settlements,

Recalling its resolution 2861 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 concerning world-wide intercommunal co-operation, which stressed the role played in that sphere by the United Towns Organization,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1738 (LIV) of 4 May 1973 on international co-operation between municipalities,

1. *Invites* the Secretary-General to ensure that the international bodies responsible for implementing the relevant recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements:

(a) Study the specific possibilities and effective conditions for collaboration between the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations concerned;

(b) Draw up with those organizations programmes of collaboration;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fifth session on the evolution of those programmes.

*101st plenary meeting
16 December 1976*

31/115. United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements

The General Assembly,

Noting resolution 5 of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements on post-Conference use of audio-visual material,³⁴

Expressing its appreciation for the support and assistance in preparing the audio-visual material for the Conference provided by national and international organizations, particularly the United Nations Environment Programme,

Convinced that the audio-visual and related material prepared for the Conference constitutes an information resource of continuing value for the effective implementation of recommendations for national action, programmes for international co-operation and the realization of goals in the field of human settlements established by the Conference,

Recognizing that prompt and effective utilization of the information resource created for the Conference is

³³ See *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. II.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, chap. III.