

32/169. Implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Desertification with respect to financial and technical assistance to the least developed among the developing countries

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Desertification, held at Nairobi from 29 August to 9 September 1977,¹⁰¹

Recognizing that desertification constitutes a worldwide economic and social problem,

Reaffirming the cardinal principle of the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources,

Bearing in mind resolution 2 of 9 September 1977 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Desertification, in which the Conference recognized that the least developed among the developing countries with limited resources at their disposal were in need of immediate financial and technical assistance from the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system,

Taking note of resolution 98 (IV) of 31 May 1976 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,¹⁰²

1. *Recommends* the speedy implementation of recommendation 28 of the United Nations Conference on Desertification with respect to financial and technical assistance to the least developed countries;¹⁰³

2. *Urges* the United Nations and its Member States, the specialized agencies and international and regional financial institutions to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Desertification in favour of those countries by extending additional international and bilateral assistance;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*107th plenary meeting
19 December 1977*

32/170. Measures to be taken for the benefit of the Sudano-Sahelian region

The General Assembly,

Considering the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and the relevant resolutions and recommendations adopted by the United Nations Conference on Desertification, held at Nairobi from 29 August to 9 September 1977,¹⁰⁴

Bearing in mind the resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations concerning the drought in the Sahel and the implementation of the medium-term and long-term programme for the recovery and rehabilitation of the region,

Aware of the particular seriousness of desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region and of the recurrent critical situations resulting from it, which hamper the economic and social development of the region and have particularly adverse effects on the way of life of the population,

Noting, in particular, the harmful effects of the particularly low level of rainfall in the region,

1. *Stresses* the need for the immediate implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and of the relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Desertification;

2. *Invites* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to consider at its sixth session, on the basis of a report by the Executive Director of the Programme which will take account of the role and activities of the competent existing organs in the region, measures to improve institutional arrangements in the Sudano-Sahelian region, including the establishment of a subregional office of the Programme for the purpose of supporting efforts undertaken at the national and regional levels by the countries concerned to combat desertification and of encouraging and co-ordinating, in co-operation with competent existing organs, assistance from developed countries, multilateral financial institutions, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental donors;

3. *Further invites* the Governing Council to include in its agenda, when it considers the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, an item concerning measures and modes of action for implementing projects and programmes to combat desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

*107th plenary meeting
19 December 1977*

32/171. Living conditions of the Palestinian people

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976,¹⁰⁵ and the relevant recommendations for national action¹⁰⁶ adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver from 31 May to 11 June 1976,

Recalling also resolution 3 on the living conditions of the Palestinians in occupied territories, as contained in the recommendations of the Conference for international co-operation,¹⁰⁷ and Economic and Social Council resolution 2100 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 31/110 of 16 December 1976,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories¹⁰⁸ and expresses the view that there is need for further analysis in order to meet fully the objectives of General Assembly resolution 31/110;

2. *Requests* therefore the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the relevant United Nations organs and

¹⁰¹ See A/CONF.74/36, chap. II.

¹⁰² See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fourth Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.D.10 and corrigendum), part one, sect. A.

¹⁰³ See A/CONF.74/36, chap. I.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, chaps. I and II.

¹⁰⁵ *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. I.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, chap. II.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, chap. III.

¹⁰⁸ A/32/228.

specialized agencies, particularly the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the Economic Commission for Western Asia, to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session a comprehensive and analytical report on the social and economic impact of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories;

3. *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;

4. *Urges* all States to co-operate with the Secretary-General in the preparation of the report.

*107th plenary meeting
19 December 1977*

32/172. United Nations Conference on Desertification

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and International economic co-operation,

Recalling further its resolution 3337 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, in which it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Desertification,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the results of the Conference,¹⁰⁹

1. *Approves* the report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, held at Nairobi from 29 August to 9 September 1977;¹¹⁰

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government and people of Kenya for acting as host to the Conference;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General of the Conference for its efficient preparation and organization;

4. *Calls upon* all Governments to consider, on a priority basis, the recommendations for national action contained in section IV of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification¹¹¹ and, where necessary, the desirability of establishing a national authority to co-ordinate, consolidate and implement national anti-desertification action programmes;

5. *Recommends* that subregional co-operation be initiated or intensified, as considered necessary, among countries affected by desertification, with the required assistance from the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations concerned, with a view to formulating specific joint programmes and requests for development assistance for implementation of the Plan of Action;

6. *Requests* the regional commissions to undertake intensified and sustained action in support of national efforts to combat desertification, to assist Governments,

at their request, in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and to convene as appropriate, in co-operation with interested Governments and regional organizations, intergovernmental regional meetings, technical workshops and seminars to consider the immediate implementation of the recommendations contained in section V of the Plan of Action;

7. *Requests* the organs, organizations and other bodies of the United Nations system to support international action to combat desertification within the context of the Plan of Action;

8. *Decides* to entrust the Governing Council and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as the Environment Co-ordination Board, with the responsibility of following up and co-ordinating the implementation of the Plan of Action, in accordance with recommendation 27 thereof,¹¹² and requests the Governing Council to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session and every two years thereafter;

9. *Calls upon* all countries, in particular developed countries, as well as multilateral financial institutions and non-governmental donors, to provide and increase their assistance to countries suffering from desertification, especially for the financing of their subregional and regional programmes and projects within appropriate consortium arrangements, such as those pertaining to the Sahel green belt, and urges developing countries to give due priority to desertification problems in their development assistance requests;

10. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to convene immediately a consultative group, which would meet as and when required, comprising representatives from the organizations referred to in paragraph 7 above, such other organizations as might be required, donor countries, multilateral financial agencies as well as developing countries having a substantial interest in combating desertification, to assist in mobilizing resources for the activities undertaken within the framework of implementing the Plan of Action;

11. *Endorses* in principle the creation of a special account within the United Nations for implementing the Plan of Action;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare and submit a study on the establishment and operation of such an account to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council;

13. *Invites* the Governing Council to have prepared, by a small group of high-level specialists in the international financing of projects and programmes, a study of additional measures and means of financing for the implementation of the Plan of Action, and to submit a final report on the subject of additional measures of financing to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to approach Member States and competent organizations and bodies within the United Nations system, as well as the scientific institutions concerned outside the system, for further research, development and refinement of the data pertaining to desertification, in order to close any

¹⁰⁹ A/32/257 and Corr.1.

¹¹⁰ A/CONF.74/36.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*, chap. I.

¹¹² *Ibid.*, chap. I, sect. VII.