

(b) To initiate immediately, in consultation with all concerned United Nations organizations, an examination of the progress made thus far in the decentralization of United Nations activities and to report thereon to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council, with a view to determining the specific authorities, responsibilities and resources that should be decentralized and the timing of such decentralization;

(c) To take practical measures aimed at strengthening liaison functions between the United Nations Headquarters and the regional commissions, bearing in mind the role of the Regional Commissions Liaison Office;

(d) To ensure that the necessary measures proposed by the Secretary-General are undertaken to implement recommendations 6 to 8 of the Joint Inspection Unit,¹³⁵ in particular the speedy development of management services, in order to ensure that the Economic Commission for Africa functions at optimum efficiency and effectiveness bearing in mind the ongoing consultations;

4. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to institute, under the aegis of the Commission, regional subject-oriented and high-level inter-agency meetings to discuss common issues aimed at the development of firm guidelines for co-ordinated action towards attainment of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa;

5. *Urges* the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to increase the effectiveness of the programme of their exchanges of staff in order to foster the broader scheme of interregional co-operation;

6. *Requests* organizations of the United Nations system to assist African Governments, within the framework of the country programming process, in incorporating the goals and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action into their sectoral country programmes and projects and adapting them to subregional and regional priorities;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

*113th plenary meeting
20 December 1982*

37/215. Remnants of war

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3435 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, 35/71 of 5 December 1980 and 36/188 of 17 December 1981 concerning the problem of remnants of war,

Recalling also decisions 80 (IV) of 9 April 1976,¹³⁶ 101 (V) of 25 May 1977,¹³⁷ 9/5 of 25 May 1981¹³⁸ and 10/8 of 28 May 1982,¹³⁹ of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling further resolution 32 of the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo from 16 to 19 August 1976,¹⁴⁰ and resolution 26/11-P of the Eleventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Islamabad from 17 to 22 May 1980,¹⁴¹

¹³⁶ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/31/25), annex I.*

¹³⁷ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/32/25), annex I.*

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/36/25 and Corr. 1), annex I.*

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25), part two, annex.*

¹⁴⁰ See A/31/197, annex IV, sect. B.

¹⁴¹ See A/35/419-S/14129, annex I.

Convinced that the responsibility for the removal of the remnants of war should be borne by the countries that planted them,

Recognizing that the presence of the material remnants of war, particularly mines, on the lands of developing countries seriously impedes their development efforts and causes loss of life and property,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the problem of remnants of war;¹⁴²

2. *Regrets* that no real measures have been taken to solve the problem of remnants of war despite the various resolutions and decisions adopted thereon by the General Assembly and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. *Reiterates its support* of the just demands of the States affected by the implantation of mines and the presence of other remnants of war on their lands for compensation from the States responsible for those remnants;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to prepare a factual study on the problem of remnants of war, particularly mines, which would include an analysis of the following aspects:

(a) The economic and environmental problems experienced by developing countries affected by remnants of war, the loss of life and property they have suffered, their specific demands in this respect and the extent to which the responsible States are willing to compensate the affected States and to assist them in solving the problem;

(b) The legal status of the problem;

(c) The international co-operation required to solve the problem;

(d) The role of the United Nations in this regard, including the possibility of convening a conference pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 35/71 and 36/188;

5. *Appeals* to all States, particularly those responsible for the presence of remnants of war, to co-operate with the Secretary-General in order to enable him to prepare the study requested in paragraph 4 above and to make specific and effective recommendations for solving the problem of remnants of war;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to submit the study in time for consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

*113th plenary meeting
20 December 1982*

37/216. Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 36/190 of 17 December 1981,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/55 of 29 July 1982,

Noting decision 10/18 of 31 May 1982 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme¹³⁹ and decisions 82/26 and 82/28 of 18 June 1982 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme,¹⁴³

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme¹⁴⁴ on the

¹⁴² A/37/415.

¹⁴³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1982, Supplement No. 6 (E/1982/16/Rev. 1), annex I.*

¹⁴⁴ A/37/397, annex.