

report on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

*119th plenary meeting
17 December 1985*

40/199. Co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and 35/77 B of 5 December 1980,

Having considered resolution 8/14 adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements on 8 May 1985⁸⁸ and decision 13/12 adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on 23 May 1985,⁸³

Decides to discontinue the annual meetings of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the bureau of its Governing Council.

*119th plenary meeting
17 December 1985*

40/200. International co-operation in the field of the environment

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the international dimension of environmental problems, the role of environmental factors in the broader economic and social context, and the importance of taking environmental considerations fully into account in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,²²

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its thirteenth session,⁸²

Having considered also the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment,⁸⁹

Noting with deep concern that the harmful consequences of the drought and desertification seriously affecting many countries, in particular African countries, are exacerbated by the continued erosion of the resource base for the development of those countries,

Reaffirming the importance of the interrelationships between resources, environment, people and development, and the need to take those interrelationships into account in development policies and strategies,

Stressing the importance of an international exchange of experience and knowledge concerning the protection of the environment,

Noting the activity of the United Nations Environment Programme on the subject "The arms race and the environment", in accordance with its programme of work as adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Mindful of the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources, including their forests,

Noting also the activities of the United Nations and other international organizations, as well as the international initiatives being taken that are directed towards the important objective of rational management, protection and rehabilitation of the world's forests,

Recalling its resolution 38/161 of 19 December 1983 on the process of preparation of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its thirteenth session and endorses the decisions contained therein,⁸² as adopted;

2. *Welcomes* the decision of the Governing Council to change to a biennial cycle of sessions on an experimental basis and in this regard takes note of the establishment of the open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives to facilitate this process;⁹⁰

3. *Invites* the Governing Council, when reviewing the experiment with the organization of a biennial work programme, to consider changes that may in consequence be necessary in the functioning of the Council, including the term of membership;

4. *Welcomes* section III of decision 13/1 of 23 May 1985,⁸³ and decision 13/10 of 24 May 1985⁸³ by which the Governing Council initiated steps towards the preparation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 and invited the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to review and further develop the methodology in the light of the experience gained in the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1984-1989;

5. *Takes note* of the work done by the Special Commission on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which has adopted the name World Commission on Environment and Development, and by the Intergovernmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond in the preparation of their reports, and recalls the relationship between the Commission and the Committee, as set out in General Assembly resolution 38/161;

6. *Takes note* of the progress on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment during 1985, including the adoption of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and of an international protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, on sulphur emissions and fluxes, and the organization of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals;

7. *Considers* that measures to deal with the erosion of the natural resource base in countries affected by drought and desertification should have as one of their major aims the sustainable exploitation and increased productivity of that natural resource base;

8. *Welcomes* the importance attached by the Governing Council to regional approaches and programmes relating to international co-operation in the field of the environment, and in this context stresses the relevance of specific regional planning identified by the regions themselves;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the convening of the first African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at Cairo from 16 to 18 December 1985;

⁸⁸ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/40/8 and Corr.1), annex I, sect. A.*

⁸⁹ UNEP/GC.13/10.

⁹⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/40/25), annex, decision 13/2.*