

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.

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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.*

10. *Calls upon* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to co-ordinate further the activities of the Programme with those of other organizations of the United Nations system, to co-operate appropriately with the organizers of the international initiatives on the future of the forests, and to report thereon to the Governing Council;

11. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen the co-ordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme and the need for additional resources to assist developing countries in dealing with serious environmental problems, and urges the Executive Director of the Programme, in consultation with Governments and the international organizations concerned, to accelerate and intensify his efforts in that field;

12. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments that continue to contribute to the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, particularly those that have increased their contributions, and urges those Governments that have not yet paid their pledged contributions to the Fund for 1985 or made pledges for 1986 to do so in the near future.

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40/201. Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976,⁹¹ and the relevant recommendations for national action⁹² adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

Recalling also its resolution 39/169 of 17 December 1984,

Taking note of Commission on Human Settlements resolution 8/3 of 10 May 1985,⁸⁸

Gravely alarmed by the continuation of the Israeli settlement policies, which have been declared null and void and a major obstacle to peace,

Recognizing the need to identify priority development projects needed for improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories,

1. *Takes note with concern* of the report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories;⁹³

2. *Takes note also* of the statement made on 25 October 1985 by the observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization;⁹⁴

3. *Rejects* the Israeli plans and actions intended to change the demographic composition of the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly the increase and expansion of the Israeli settlements, and other plans and actions creating conditions leading to the displacement and exodus of Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territories;

4. *Expresses its alarm* at the deterioration, as a result of the Israeli occupation, in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967;

5. *Affirms* that the Israeli occupation is contradictory to the basic requirements for the social and economic

development of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To organize, by April 1987, a seminar on priority development projects needed for improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, including a comprehensive general housing programme, as recommended in resolution 8/3 of the Commission on Human Settlements;

(b) To make the necessary preparations for the seminar, providing for the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization;

(c) To invite experts to present papers to the seminar;

(d) To invite also relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(e) To report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the preparations for the seminar;

(f) To report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the seminar.

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40/202. Human settlements

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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

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 also its resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977 on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements and 34/116 of 14 December 1979 on the strengthening of human settlements activities,

Conscious of the very substantial gap between the resources available through voluntary contributions to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the needs of developing countries requesting assistance from the Centre,

Having considered the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its eighth session,⁹⁵

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its eighth session;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the progress which the Commission and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), have continued to make in providing guidance and assistance to Governments in their efforts to provide adequate shelter and services to their people, particularly the poor and disadvantaged;

3. *Calls upon* all Governments to accord the requisite priority in their development and development assistance

⁹¹ Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. I.

⁹² *Ibid.*, chap. II.

⁹³ A/40/373-E/1985/99

⁹⁴ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Second Committee, 17th meeting, paras. 93-99

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/40/8 and Corr.1).