The General Assembly:

2. Recalling also the relevant provisions of Agenda 21 on sustainable mountain development, 73/  
3. Noting the work already undertaken to achieve sustainable mountain development by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, including its role as task manager for chapter 13 of Agenda 21,  
4. Encourages all Governments, the United Nations system and its organizations and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;  
5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the state of the preparations for the International Year of Mountains,

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review of progress made in implementing conventions related to sustainable development, 63/ who recognizes that policy decisions need to be made in the conventions are undertaken by their respective Conferences of the Parties, which are authorized to review and appraise the implementation of the conventions and of the commitments contained therein.

Noting that various conventions related to environment and sustainable development are at different stages of implementation, and recognizing that the implementation of Agenda 21, 66/ as well as the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme, 76/ adopted at the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, will enhance the full implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which was held in New York from 23 to 27 June 1992, 67/—Refocusing that Agenda 21 is the fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development, and that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, 76/ adopted at the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, will enhance the full implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Recognizing that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 includes a statement of commitment to Agenda 21 and the goals of sustainable development, an assessment of progress made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, 64/ who recognizes, as stated in the Nairobi Declaration, that, in order to operationalize its mandate, a revitalized Programme needs adequate, stable and predictable financial resources; and, in this regard, further recognizes the interrelationship between excellence, relevance and cost-effectiveness in programme delivery, confidence in the organization and a consequent increase in the ability of the Programme to attract funding, Also encourages the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to intensify its efforts to mobilize additional financial resources from other financial resources, as appropriate, in order to support the implementation of the priority areas of the Programme in line with the Nairobi Declaration and subject to the agreement of the Governing Council.

53/188
Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly, 62/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992, and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, which was held in New York from 23 to 27 June 1992,—Refocusing that Agenda 21 is the fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development, and that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, 76/ adopted at the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, will enhance the full implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recognizing that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 includes a
in all main areas of Agenda 21 and other out-
comes of the Conference, and recommenda-
tions for the future methods of work of the Com-
mmission on Sustainable Development and the
programme of work of the Commission for the

Recognizing also that mutually supportive
efforts at the national and international levels are
needed in the pursuit of sustainable develop-
ment, and that the further developed and develop-
ing countries points to the continuing need for a
dynamic and enabling international economic envi-
enment supportive of international coopera-
tion, particularly in the fields of finance, technology,
transfer, debt and trade, if the momentum for glo-
bal progress towards sustainable development is
to be maintained and increased.

Noting with concern that during the as-
essment and review of progress made at its
fifth Implementation of Agenda 21 and other
already completed that although some progress had
been made, especially at the local level, the
overall assessment of the outcome of the work of
the Commission on Sustainable Development is
not fully satisfactory.

Noting also the convening of the first As-
sembly of the Global Environment Facility at
New York in March 1998 and the convocation of
the second replenishment of the Facility,
Noting further that the next review of the im-
plementation of Agenda 21 is scheduled to be
carried out by the General Assembly in 2002,
1. Stressing the need to accelerate the full im-
plementation of Agenda 21 and the Pro-
gramme for the Further Implementation of
Agenda 21;
2. Recognizes that the Commission on Sus-
tainable Development, within its mandate as
specified in General Assembly resolution 47/
191 of 22 December 1992 and the Programme
for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,
86/8

3. Calls upon the Commission on Sustainable
Development to continue to undertake these tasks
towards the full implementation of Agenda 21,
4. Emphasizes that the achievement of more
substantial results by the next review of the
implementation of Agenda 21 in 2002 will require
collaboration at all levels, including by Gov-
ernments, and calls upon all countries to fulfill
their commitments to Agenda 21, and in this
context calls upon developed countries to fulfill
the commitments they have undertaken with re-
spect to financial, technological and the transfer of
environmentally sound technology;
5. Underlines the importance of the continu-
ous active and effective involvement of all the
relevant parts of the United Nations system in
the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Pro-
gramme for the Further Implementation of
Agenda 21, and the Secretary-General,
closely collaborate with all relevant parts of
the United Nations system and taking into ac-
count the outcome of the deliberations in the
Commission on Sustainable Development, to
submit to the General Assembly for its consider-
ation at the session, through the Economic
and Social Council in view of its coordination
function, an analytical report on the measures
taken within the United Nations system to accel-
erate the implementation of Agenda 21 and of
the Programme for the Further Implementation
of Agenda 21, including identification of con-
siderations and recommendations on how to add-
ress those constraints;
6. Stressing the importance of high-quality
preparations for the forthcoming ten-year review
of Agenda 21 and index for the Secretary-General
for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and
requests the Secretary-General to submit to the
General Assembly for further consideration
in the context of the high-level policy
 session for the review and appraisal of
the implementation of Agenda 21, and requests the Secretary-
General, in collaboration with all relevant parts of
the United Nations system and taking into ac-
count the outcome of the deliberations in the
Commission on Sustainable Development, to
submit to the General Assembly for its consider-
87/7
88/4

53/189
Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States* 1

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996 and 52/202 of 18 December 1997,
Reaffirming the outcome of its nineteenth special session, held from 23 to 28 June 1997, specifically the adoption of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development taken at its fifteenth special session, held from 7 to 25 April 1997, and on 22 December 1997 and from 20 April to 1 May 1998, respectively,
Noting the importance of the decision taken at its nineteenth special session 82/ to convene a two-day special session, in New York in September 1999, for a full and comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Pro-
gramme for Action of the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 83/ to
Reaffirming its decision to invite States members of the specialized agencies that are not
members of the United Nations to participate in
the special session and in the preparatory meet-
gings therefor, in the capacity of observers,

87/7 Report of the United Nations Conference on Envi-
(United Nations publication: Sales No. E.92.I.18 and cor-
rigendum), resolution 1, annex II.
88/4 Resolution S/19-2, annex.
89/5 See Office Records of the Economic and Social Council.
97/97 Supplement No. 9 (E/1997/29).
82/4 Resolution S/19-2, annex 7.
83/3 Report of the Global Conference on the Sustain-
able Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No.:E.94.18 and corrig-
dendum), chap. 1, resolution 1, annex II.

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8. Stresses the need for the effective participation of actors of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, in preparation for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements, taking into account the experience gained at the Global Conference, for their substantive contributions to and active involvement in the preparatory meetings, and the special session, and in that context invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for their effective involvement in the special session.

9. Also stresses the importance of the full and effective participation of small island developing States in the special session and in the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development as the preparatory body for the special session, and invites Governments to make time available to States, a report on the donors' conference; and the agenda 16/ of the commemorative programme of action, (c) To encourage the progressive development and codification of international law, marked by the first and the second International Peace Conference, held at The Hague in 1899 and 1907 respectively.

Recalling that the third International Peace Conference, scheduled to be held at The Hague in 1915, was not held because of the outbreak of the First World War the previous year,

Recalling also the proposal by the Russian Federation for a third international peace conference with a view to considering international law and order in the post-cold war world at the threshold of the twenty-first century, referred to in General Assembly resolution 51/159 of 16 December 1996, and the initiatives undertaken by the Russian Federation and the Kingd-

10. Deems it important to consider the possibility of a set of jubilee postage stamps, to be adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, for sub-

11. Welcomes the activities undertaken by the Global Environment Facility, and invites it, in accordance with the relevant decisions of its Council and the relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 86/ and the Convention on Biological Diversity, 87/ to further the objectives of the Programme of Action;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, through the existing mechanisms, and to the General Assembly at its special session for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, a report on the donors’ conference;

13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled “Environment and Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”.

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the activities taken to ensure the present resolution and the recommendations emanating from the special session for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.


53/99 Action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the First International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/23 of 17 November 1989, by which it declared the period 1990-1999 the United Nations Decade of International Law;

Noting the conclusion of the United Nations Decade of International Law, also that the main purposes of the Decade, according to its resolution 44/23, should be, inter alia:

(a) To promote acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law;
(b) To promote means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice;
(c) To encourage the progressive development of international law and its codification.

87/ Notables resolutions 44/23, 51/157 and 52/153.
13/ A/6/C.63/23, annex.
14/ A/C.6/53/10, annex.
To encourage the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law.


Having considered the note by the Secretary-General, 17/ and expressing its appreciation thereto;

Welcoming the significant steps taken by the Secretary-General to rationalize and expedite the registration and publication of treaties pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting the completion of the initial phase of the new electronic database for the United Nations Treaty Collection,

Recalling that the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations or between International Organisations was signed, on behalf of the United Nations, the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations, as provided in article 83 of the Convention;

Noting that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 41/420 of 3 December 1986, the Secretary-General signed, on behalf of the United Nations, the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations, and recalling also the impact of the United Nations Treaty Collection, and wider appreciation of international law and international organizations and institutions working in the field of international law;

15.

Principles and guidelines for international negotiations

The General Assembly, Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles of the United Nations Decade of International Law, and taking into account the objectives of the United Nations Decade of International Law, and bearing in mind also the important role that constructive and effective negotiations can play in attaining the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations by contributing to the management of international relations, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the creation of new international norms of conduct, Bearing in mind that in their negotiations States should be guided by the relevant principles and rules of international law, Bearing in mind also the right of free choice of their own political and economic system, and their own way of life, Bearing in mind also the right to self-determination, and Noting that the identification of principles and guidelines of relevance to international negotiations could contribute to enhancing the predictability of negotiating parties, reducing uncertainty and promoting an atmosphere of trust at negotiations,

15.

Appeals to States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations working in the field of international law and the private sector to make financial contributions or contributions in kind for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the programme;

16.

Once again requests the Secretary-General to bring the programme, as well as the note referred to in paragraph 12, to the attention of States and international organizations and institutions working in the field of international law;

17.

Expresses its appreciation to the Office of the Legal Affairs of the Secretariat for the work done by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the field of the peaceful settlement of disputes, including the adoption of its Model Rules of Procedure for fact-finding commissions of inquiry, which entered into effect on 15 December 1997;

Encourages States to disseminate at the national level, as appropriate, information contained in the note by the Secretary-General;

Authorizes the Secretary-General to deposit, on behalf of the United Nations, an act of formal confirmation of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations, as provided in article 83 of the Convention;

Encourages States to consider ratifying or acceding to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations, as provided in article 83 of the Convention;

Encourages States to include reference to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations, or to analogous conventions or international instruments, in their national legislation, and to convene a one-day plenary meeting on 17 November 1999 to mark the end of the Decade.


53/101 Principles and guidelines for international negotiations

The General Assembly, Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles of the United Nations Decade of International Law, and reaffirming the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among the States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations 23/ and of the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes, 24/ Taking into account the objectives of the United Nations Decade of International Law, Considering that international negotiations constitute a flexible and effective means for, among other things, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the creation of new international norms of conduct, Bearing in mind that in their negotiations States should be guided by the relevant principles and rules of international law, Bearing in mind also the important role that constructive and effective negotiations can play in attaining the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations by contributing to the management of international relations, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the creation of new international norms of conduct, Bearing in mind also the right of free choice of their own political and economic system, and their own way of life, Bearing in mind also the right to self-determination, and Noting that the identification of principles and guidelines of relevance to international negotiations could contribute to enhancing the predictability of negotiating parties, reducing uncertainty and promoting an atmosphere of trust at negotiations,

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1. Reaffirms the following principles of international law which are of relevance to international negotiations:

(a) Sovereign equality of all States, notwithstanding differences of an economic, social, political or other nature;

(b) States have the right not to intervene in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) States have the duty to fulfill in good faith their obligations under international law;

(d) States have the duty to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations;

(e) Any agreement is void if its conclusion has been procured by the threat or use of force in violation of the principles of international law embodied in the Charter of the United Nations;

(f) States have the duty to cooperate with one another in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, in their political, economic and social systems, in the various spheres of international relations, in order to maintain international peace and security and to promote international economic stability and progress, the general welfare of nations and international cooperation free from discrimination on the basis of frontiers or of any other difference;

(g) States shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered;

2. Affirms the importance of conducting negotiations in accordance with international law in a manner compatible with and conducive to the achievement of the stated objective of negotiations and in line with the following guidelines:

(a) Negotiations should be conducted in good faith;

(b) States should take due account of the importance of engaging, in an appropriate manner, in return, in the negotiations and their progress;

(c) The purpose and object of all negotiations must be fully compatible with the principles and norms of international law, including the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations in their matters in question;

(d) States should adhere to the mutually agreed framework for conducting negotiations;

(e) States should endeavour to maintain a continuous dialogue between the two organs, whose vital interests are directly affected by the matters in question;

(f) States should seek to ensure that information in this regard;

(g) States should adhere to the mutually agreed framework for conducting negotiations;

(h) States should endeavour to maintain a continuous dialogue between the two organs, whose vital interests are directly affected by the matters in question;

3. Emphasizing the importance of furthering the progressive development of international law and its codification as a means of implementing the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, 26/

4. Recognizing the desirability of referring legal and draft law Questions to the Sixth Committee, including topics that might be submitted to the International Law Commission for closer examination, and of ensuring that the Sixth Committee and the Commission further to enhance their contribution to the progressive development of international law and its codification, 26/

5. Recommends that, in the light of the current review under review those topics of international law which, given their renewed interest for the international community, may be suitable for the progressive development and codification of international law and therefore may be included in the future programme of work of the International Law Commission, and

6. Stresses the desirability of enhancing dialogue between the International Law Commission and the Sixth Committee and, in this context, requests the Commission to submit any recommendations to that effect;

7. Requests the International Law Commission to continue the implementation of article 18, paragraph (e), and article 26, paragraphs 1 and 2, of its statute in order to further strengthen cooperation between the Commission and other bodies concerned with international law, having in mind the usefulness of such cooperation, and invites the Commission to provide the Sixth Committee at the fifty-fourth session with updated information in this regard.

8. Notes that cooperation with national organizations and individual experts concerned with international law may assist Governments, either in the Sixth Committee or in written form, would be of particular interest in providing effective guidance for the Commission in its further work;

9. Takes note of the report of the International Law Commission 30/ regarding the holding of split sessions as of 2000, requests the Commission to examine the advantages and disadvantages of such split sessions, and decides to return to this matter at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, in particular the completion of the first reading of the draft articles on the prevention of injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law;

10. Recognizes the desirability of referring legal and draft law Questions to the Sixth Committee and the Commission in its future work on the topics included in the programme of work of the International Law Commission of its long-term programme of work and encourages the Commission to proceed with the selection of new topics for its next quinquennium;

11. Welcomes with appreciation the steps taken by the International Law Commission in relation to its internal matters, as contained in paragraphs 543 and 544 of its report, 28/ and encourages it to continue enhancing its efficiency and productivity, taking into consideration the discussion held by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

12. Takes note of the consideration by the International Law Commission of its long-term programme of work and encourages the Commission to proceed with the selection of new topics for its next quinquennium.

13. Reaffirms the desirability of referring legal and draft law Questions to the Sixth Committee and the Commission in its future work on the topics included in the programme of work of the International Law Commission of its long-term programme of work and encourages the Commission to proceed with the selection of new topics for its next quinquennium.

14. Recommends that, in the light of the current review under review those topics of international law which, given their renewed interest for the international community, may be suitable for the progressive development and codification of international law and therefore may be included in the future programme of work of the International Law Commission, and

15. Reaffirms its previous decisions concerning the role of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat and those concerning the summary records and other documentation of the International Law Commission;

16. Takes note of the inclusion of information about the work of the International Law Commission in its Web site; 31/

17. Once again expresses the wish that seminars will continue to be held in conjunction with the sessions of the International Law Commission and that an increasing number of participants from developing countries will be given the opportunity to attend those seminars, appeals to States that can do so to make the voluntary con-
tributions that are urgently needed for the holding of the seminars, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the seminars with adequate services, including interpretation, as required; 17. Requests the Secretary-General to forward to the International Law Commission, for its attention, the records of the debate on the report of the Portion of the General Assembly, together with such written statements as delegations may circulate in conjunction with their oral statements, and to prepare and distribute a topical summary of the debate, following established practice; 18. Takes note with satisfaction of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, together with such written statements as delegations may circulate for the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and peaceful purposes of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space; Concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space, Recognizing that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend all States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the important role of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point, Referring the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and the role of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space; Considering that space debris is an issue of concern to all nations, 11. Notes with satisfaction that the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) by the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III;
(b) Space debris;
(c) The United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system; 14. Also endorses the recommendation of the Committee at its thirty-sixth session (resolution 52/56), the Committee, at its forty-first session, reviewed further its requirements for unedited verbal transcripts and agreed to continue with this practice; 15. Notes the agreement reached by the Committee at its fortieth session on the composition of the bureau of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the second term starting in 2000, in the context of the implementation of the measures relating to the working methods of those bodies, which were endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 11 of its resolution 52/56; 16. Notes that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its thirty-fifth session, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/56; taking note that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued to contribute to ratifying or acceding to those treaties; 17. Endorses the recommendations of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-eighth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:
(a) Continue its consideration of the review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space;
(b) Continue, through its working group, its consideration of matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union;
(c) Continue its review of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space and establish a working group to consider the item;
(d) Continue its consideration of other matters, including informed debate on specific proposals already made for possible new agenda items for the Legal Subcommittee; 5. Also endorses the recommendation of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions, should consider the following priority items:
(a) Preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) by the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III; 4.
(b) Preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), will be convened by the United Nations Office at Vienna from 13 to 30 July 1999 as a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space open to all States Members of the United Nations, 12.
Having regard to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-first session, 4./
1. Endorses the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-first session, 4./
2. Invites States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space 6/ to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties; 3. Notes that, at its thirty-sixth session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in its working group, continued its work as mandated by the Committee in its resolution 52/56; 7./
4. Endorses the recommendations of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its forty-first session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:
(a) Continue its consideration of the review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space; 5.
(b) Continue, through its working group, its consideration of matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union; 6.
(c) Continue its review of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space and establish a working group to consider the item; 7.
(d) Continue its consideration of other matters, including informed debate on specific proposals already made for possible new agenda items for the Legal Subcommittee; 8.
5. Also endorses the recommendation of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions, should consider the following priority items:
(a) Preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) by the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III; 6.
(b) Space debris;
(c) The United Nations Programme on Space Activities and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system; 7.
Also endorses the recommendation of the Committee at its thirty-sixth session (resolution 52/56), the Committee, at its forty-first session, reviewed further its requirements for unedited verbal transcripts and agreed to continue with this practice; 8.
(a) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries; 9.
(b) Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine;
32. Urges all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

33. Emphasizes the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favorable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, particularly in the developing countries;

34. Requests the specialized agencies and other international organizations to continue and, where appropriate, enhance their cooperation with the Committee and to provide it with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

35. Requests the Committee to continue its activities and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.

53/155

Right to development*

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its previous resolutions and those of the Commission on Human Rights relating to the right to development,

Emphasizing the importance of creating an integrated political, economic, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development at the national and international levels,

Noting that the human person is the central subject of development and that development policy should therefore make the human being the main participant in and beneficiary of development,

Stressing the importance of creating an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development at the national and international levels,

Further recalling that, in order to promote development, equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and recognizing that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the enjoyment of all human rights is indispensable for the full exercise of the right to development,

Requests that the Commission on Human Rights continue to consider this matter and, by resolution 1998/72 of 22 April 1998,379/ established a follow-up mechanism, initially for a period of three years,


378/ Resolution 217 A (III).
1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 382/

2. Reaffirms the importance of the right to development, as established in the Declaration on the Right to Development, 383/ and reaffirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,384/ for every human person and for all peoples in all countries, in particular the developing countries, as an integral part of fundamental human rights, as well as the potential contribution its realization could make to the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. Recognizes that the Declaration on the Right to Development constitutes an integral link between the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 385/ and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, through its elaboration of a holistic vision integrating economic, social and cultural rights with civil and political rights;

4. Reiterates the importance of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which reaffirms the right to development, as established by the Declaration on the Right to Development, as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights and also reaffirms that the human person is the central subject of development;

5. Reaffirms that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and in this context affirms that:

(a) Development experiences of countries reflect differences with regard to both progress and setbacks, and that the development spectrum has a wide range, not only between countries but also within countries;

(b) A number of developing countries have experienced rapid economic growth and remain dynamic partners in the international community;

(c) At the same time, the gap between development and development countries remains unacceptable wide and developing countries continue to face difficulties in participating in the globalization process and may risk being marginalized and effectively excluded from its benefits;

(d) Democracy, which is spreading everywhere, has raised development expectations everywhere, that their non-fulfilment risks the rekindling of non-democratic forces and that structural reforms which do not take social realities into account could destabilize the processes of democratization;

(e) Effective popular participation is an essential component of successful and lasting development;

(f) Democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, and effective participation by civil society are an essential part of the necessary foundations for the realization of social- and people-centred sustainable development;

(g) The participation of developing countries in the international economic decision-making process needs to be broadened and strengthened;

6. Reaffirms also that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms would be strengthened by enhanced international cooperation, in particular, for development;

7. Urges all States to eliminate all obstacles to development at all levels by pursuing the promotion and protection of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights and by implementing comprehensive development programmes at the national level, integrating these rights into development activities and by promoting effective international cooperation;

8. Reiterates that the existence of widespread absolute poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and renders democracy and popular participation fragile.

9. Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within her mandate, to give due regard to the impact of the problem of the external debt burden of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries,
on the full enjoyment of the right to development in those countries.

10. Convinced that, with deep concern about the overall decline in official development assistance flows, and calls upon the developed countries, in particular Japan, to mobilize further financial resources for development assistance to support States’ efforts towards the realization of the right to development with a view to fulfilling as soon as possible the promises made to the affected people and to meet the agreed United Nations targets.

11. Affirms the need to apply a gender perspective in the implementation of the right to development, inter alia, by ensuring that women play an active role in the development process, and emphasizes that the empowerment of women and their full participation on a basis of equality in all spheres of society is fundamental for development.

12. Concerned about the adverse impact of the current financial crisis on the realization of the right to development and the full enjoyment of the Declaration on the Right to Development, and its programmes and resources for its programmatic follow-up;

13. Recognizes that international cooperation is acknowledged more than ever as a necessity deriving from recognized mutual interest, and therefore that such cooperation should be strengthened in order to support the efforts of developing countries to solve their social and economic problems and to further their obligations to protect and realize human rights.

14. Welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to give high priority to the right to development, and urges all States to promote further the realization of this right as a vital element in a balanced human rights programme.

15. Also welcomes the efforts made by the United Nations system, and in particular the activities of the Secretary-General, to develop a mechanism to organize the process of the right to development, and invites her to explore other means and ways to achieve this objective.

16. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to inform the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly of the activities of the organizations, funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system for the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, as well as obstacles identified by them to the realization of the right to development;

17. Welcomes the establishment of a follow-up mechanism, as a three-year period, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/72, consisting of an open-ended working group of the Commission and an independent expert, in order to make further progress towards the realization of the right to development.

18. Calls upon the Commission on Human Rights to continue to make proposals to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the future course of action on the question, in particular on practical measures for the implementation and enhancement of the Declaration on the Right to Development, including comprehensive and effective measures to eliminate obstacles to its implementation;

19. Recognizes that the fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides an important opportunity to place all human rights and, in this context, the right to development in particular at the top of the global agenda;

20. Calls upon the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as appropriate:

(a) To examine ways and means to provide the Declaration on the Right to Development with a profile and ensure its importance;

(b) To continue to accord priority to the right to development and provide commensurate support in terms of staff, services and resources for its programmatic follow-up;

(c) To ensure widespread dissemination and promotion of the right to development, in close cooperation with States and intergovernmental organizations, national institutions, academia and interested non-governmental organizations worldwide, through freely available booklets and publications, in a similar way to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, working within an environment of freedom, democracy and the rule of law;

(d) To project the role and importance of the right to development as part of the overall promotion and protection of human rights;

(e) To consult regularly on a formal and informal basis with all States on the follow-up to the Declaration on the Right to Development;

(f) To undertake a dialogue with the World Bank with regard to the right to development, including policies, programmes and activities that can promote the right to development, and to inform Member States on a regular basis of the progress made in such a dialogue;

(g) To invite the follow-up mechanism, inter alia, to consider the question of elaborating regional seminars which should focus on all aspects of the realization of the right to development.

21. Requests the Commission on Human Rights:

(a) To invite the relevant independent expert appointed by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights to include in his study on the current state of progress and implementation of the right to development, proposals for measures that could be taken for the more effective realization of the right to development at the national and international levels, to submit his studies to the General Assembly;

(b) To invite the follow-up mechanism, inter alia, to consider the question of elaborating a convention on the right to development;

22. Encourages all States to address, within the declarations and programmes of action adopted by the relevant international conferences convened by the United Nations, elements for the promotion and protection of the right to development;

23. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

24. Decides to consider this question at its fifty-fourth session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches to improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

53/142

Strengthening of the rule of law

The General Assembly,

Recalling that, by adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 292/ fifty years ago, Member States pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, thereby ensuring the full enjoyment of the right to development in those countries,

Firmly convinced that the rule of law is an essential factor in the protection of human rights, as stressed in the Declaration, and should continue to attract the attention of the international community,

Recognizing the importance of the role that can be played by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in supporting national efforts to strengthen the institutions of the rule of law,

Bearing in mind that, in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly entrusted the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with, inter alia, providing advisory services and technical and financial assistance in the field of human rights, enhancing international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights and tasks with the limited financial activities throughout the United Nations system,

Recalling the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights of June 1993 that the Secretary-General should continue to make proposals to the Commission and an independent expert, in order to support the efforts of developing countries to solve their social and economic problems and to further their obligations to protect and realize human rights, and to consult regularly on a formal and informal basis with all States on the follow-up to the Declaration on the Right to Development;

Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General,

Notes with appreciation the increasing number of Member States seeking assistance in strengthening and consolidating the rule of law;

Praises the efforts made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to accomplish its ever-increasing tasks with the limited financial and personnel resources at its disposal;

Expresses its deep concern at the scarcity of means at the disposal of the Office of the High Commissioner for the fulfilment of its tasks;

Notes that the United Nations Programme of Advisory Services and Technical Assistance, which has the task of building and strengthening adequate national structures that have a direct impact on the overall observance of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law,

Bearing in mind that the Office of the High Commissioner remains the focal point for coordinating the system-wide human rights programme, and that the Office of the High Commissioner provides some forty per cent of the overall human rights budget of the United Nations system,

Recalling its resolution 52/125 of 12 December 1997 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/48 of 11 April 1997, to consider the question at its fifty-fourth session;

Welcomes the report of the Secretary-

General,

Takes note with appreciation of the increasing number of Member States seeking assistance in strengthening and consolidating the rule of law;

293/ Recalling that, by adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 292/ fifty years ago, Member States pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, thereby ensuring the full enjoyment of the right to development in those countries,

294/ Recalling that, by adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 292/ fifty years ago, Member States pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, thereby ensuring the full enjoyment of the right to development in those countries.

295/ Recalling that, by adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 292/ fifty years ago, Member States pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, thereby ensuring the full enjoyment of the right to development in those countries.

Expresses its deep concern at the scarcity of means at the disposal of the Office of the High Commissioner for the fulfilment of its tasks;

Notes that the United Nations Programme of Advisory Services and Technical Assistance, which has the task of building and strengthening adequate national structures that have a direct impact on the overall observance of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law in countries that are committed to those ends but are facing serious economic hardship, thereby ensuring the full enjoyment of the right to development in those countries,

Welcomes the deepening of the ongoing cooperation between the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant bodies and programmes of the United Nations system, with a view to enhancing system-wide coordination of assistance in human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and, in this context, welcomes the cooperation between the United Nations Development Programme and the High Commissioner in providing technical assistance at the request of States in the promotion of the rule of law;

Encourages the High Commissioner to continue the dialogue with other organs and agencies of the United Nations system, taking into account the recommendations of the Working Group of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in its report to the Commission on Human Rights.


295/ A/53/309.
into the account the need to explore new synergies with a view to obtaining increased financial assistance for human rights and the rule of law.

8. Also encourages the High Commissioner to continue to explore the possibility of further contact with and support of financial institutions, acting within their mandates, with a view to obtaining the technical and financial means to strengthen the capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner to provide assistance to national projects aiming at the realization of human rights and the maintenance of rule of law.

9. Requests the High Commissioner to continue to accord high priority to the technical cooperation activities undertaken by her Office with regard to the rule of law.

10. Expresses its appreciation to the efforts made by the High Commissioner to undertake an analysis of the technical cooperation provided and to identify ways in which the international human rights with the aim of formulating recommendations for inter-agency coordination, funding and allocation of responsibilities in order to improve efficiency and complementarity of action concerning, inter alia, assistance to States in strengthening the rule of law.

11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the results of the contacts established in accordance with its resolution 49/184 of 21 December 1994, as well as on any other developments pertaining to the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights.

53/190

Convention on Biological Diversity*

The General Assembly,

Welcoming the resolution 52/201 of 18 December 1997 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant resolutions relating to the environment and development,

Recalling also the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 88/

Recalling further Agenda 21, 89/ particularly its chapter 15 on the conservation of biological diversity and related chapters,

Having considered the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 90/

Deeply concerned about the continued loss of the world's biological diversity and that the full and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic material, can contribute to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of biological resources, and the promotion of sustainable development of indigenous and local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources,

Recognizing that the Convention is an important instrument for achieving sustainable development, taking into account its three objectives, and for promoting the ecosystem approach embodied in the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, relating to intellectual property rights and the relationship of the Convention with other international agreements,

Noting the dialogue taking place in the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization on the provisions of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights,

Encouraged by the work carried out to date under the Convention, and satisfied that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Colombia to host the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Ad hoc Working Group on Biosafety at Cartagena
during 11 and 12 February 1999,

Recalling its invitation to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly on the result of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Noting the report of decision IV/6, in particular paragraph 11 thereof, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting,

Welcomes the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Bratislava from 4 to 16 May 1998, 91/

Welcomes the decision of the Conference of the Parties on the adoption of the programmes of work and the thematic approaches as result of the extraordinary meeting of the Convention for the foreseeable future, including its in-depth consideration of ecosys tems, habitats, including forests, wetlands and coastal areas, and inter alia, the definition of habitats, and the decision of the Conference of the Parties to report on further meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

Calls upon Governments, in cooperation with the Conference of the Parties, to use science-based analysis, to study and monitor closely the evolution of new technologies to prevent possible adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, which might have an impact on forests and local communities;

Calls upon Governments, in cooperation with the Conference of the Parties, to use science-based analysis, to study and monitor closely the evolution of new technologies to prevent possible adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, which might have an impact on forests and local communities;

Welcomes decision IV/15, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, in which the Conference of the Parties stresses the need to ensure consistency in implementing the Convention and World Trade Organization agreements, including the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, with a view to promoting increased mutual supportiveness and integration of biological diversity concerns and the protection of intellectual property rights;

Reaffirms paragraph 10 of decision IV/15, in which the Conference of the Parties emphasizes that further work is required to help develop a common appreciation of the relationship between intellectual property rights and the relevant provisions of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular on issues relating to technology transfer and conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources, including the protection of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional

89/ See also the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.18 and corrigenda), vol. II. Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.
90/ A/53/451, annex.
91/ See A/53/451, annex.
92/ Decision IV/16.

93/* See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institutional Programme Activity Centre), June 1992, articles 23.4 (g) and (i).

53/191

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997 and other relevant resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recognizing the importance of the implementation of the Convention at all levels, including through the preparation and implementation of national strategies, plans and programmes, taking into account the need for financial resources to support the implementation activities, in particular those of developing countries, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and decisions of the Conference of the Parties,

Encourages those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible,

Welcomes decision IV/8, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, in which the Conference of the Parties decided to establish a panel of experts to implement the terms outlined in the decision,

Recognizes the importance of national action to conserve biological diversity in many habitats, including forests, wetlands and coastal areas, in particular the need to continue to explore the possibility of further meetings of the Conference of the Parties to report on future developments in the field of human rights and the rule of law;

Recognizes the importance of the implementation of the Convention at all levels, including through the preparation and implementation of national strategies, plans and programmes, taking into account the need for financial resources to support the implementation activities, in particular those of developing countries, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

Requests the Secretary-General to continue to accord high priority to the technical cooperation activities undertaken by her Office with regard to the rule of law.

95/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.
the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 the sessions of the Confer-
ence of the Parties to its subsidiary bodies and its Committee of the Whole envisaged for that biennium, taking into account the request of the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting in June 1997. Noting with satisfaction that a great number of States and one regional economic in-
tegration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention, and continuing its globality and the worldwide support it enjoys, Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government centenary made by all, and also to the Secretariat and its effective func-
tioning secretariat to contribute fully to the relo-
cation of the Secretariat and the Government of Ger-
man of its resolutions 52/198; 2. Welcomes the convening of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Dakar from 30 November to 11 December 1998, in accordance with paragraph 19 of its resolution 52/198; 3. Also calls upon all those countries that are not yet parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Convention as soon as possible; 4. Notes that the United Nations, the Conven-
tion to Combat Desertification in Those Countries, Particularly in Africa".

5) ICCCD/COP(1)/1 Add. 1, decision 2/COP, annex, paras. 14; 6) ICCCD/COP(1)/1 Add. 1, decision 2/COP, annex.

53/77 Part II Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes

The General Assembly Bearing in mind resolutions CM/
Res. 1153(C/VIII) of 1988 33/ and CM/
Res. 1225(L) of 1989, 34/ adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Union, concerning the dumping of nuclear and industri-
also requests the Conference of the Parties to Combat Desertification in Those Coun-
tries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or De-
sertification, Particularly in Africa". 97)

Recalling all its resolutions on the matter since its forty-third session in 1998, including its resolution 51/45 J of 10 December 1996, 41/ Desiring of promoting the implementation of paragraph 76 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 40/ the Conference of the Parties to adopt measures to prevent any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States; 4. Requests the Conference of the Parties to take account in its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session the progress recorded in the ne-
gotiations on this subject; 5. Also requests the Conference on Disarmament to intensify efforts towards an early conclusion of such a convention and to include in its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-
ty-fourth session the progress recorded in the nego-
tiations on this subject; 6. Takes note of resolution CM/Res. 1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Union, on the Bamako

35/ See International Atomic Energy Agency, Resolu-
tions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Thirty-fourth Regular Session, 17–21 September 1990 (GC(XCVII)/RESOLUTIONS(1990)).
36/ Ibid. Thirteenth Regular Session, 13–19 Sep-
tember 1994 (GC(XXXIV)/RES/DEC(1994)).
37/ A/51/31, annex I, para. 20.
38/ Resolution 51/52.
39/ Official Records of the General Assembly. Fifty-
third Session. Supplement No. 27 (A/53/27), chap. III.E.

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Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa;

7. Expresses the hope that the effective implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste will enhance the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories;

8. Notes the adoption of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on 5 September 1997 of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management, as recommended by the participants in the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and the April 1997, and the signing of the Joint Convention by a number of States beginning on 29 September 1997, and appeals to all States to sign and subsequently ratify, accept or approve the Convention, so that it may enter into force as soon as possible;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of the General Assembly for the 1999 session, unless otherwise provided, the item entitled “Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes”.

53/76 Prevention of an arms race in outer space*

The General Assembly,
Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;
Reaffirming the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,
Reaffirming also provisions of Articles III and IV of the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 20/;
Retaining the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,
Reaffirming paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 21/ in which it is stated that in order to prevent an arms race in outer space further measures should be taken and appropriate international cooperation promoted in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,
Recalling its previous resolutions on this issue, including the proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session and at its regular sessions, and of the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament,
Recognizing that prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,
Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space,
Considering that wide participation in the legal regime applicable to outer space could contribute to enhancing its effectiveness,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, taking into account that the efforts since its establishment in 1985 and seeking to enhance its functioning in qualitative terms, continued the examination of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, 22/ and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

Noting also that there were no objections in principle in the Conference on Disarmament during its 1997 session to the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee subject to re-examination of the mandate contained in the decision of the Conference on Disarmament of 13 February 1992, 23/,

Emphasizing the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space, such that concrete results will emerge from those efforts as soon as possible,

Convinced that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,
Stressing that the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community,
Recalling in this context its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990, 47/51 of 9 December 1992 and 48/74 A of 16 December 1993, in which, inter alia, it reaffirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,
Conscious of the benefits of confidence-and security-building measures in the military field,
Recognizing that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remain a priority task of the Ad Hoc Committee and that the concrete proposals on confidence-building measures could form an integral part of such agreements,
1. Reaffirms the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space, and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective, in particular by adhering to the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 22/;
2. Reaffirms its recognition, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that this legal regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness, and that it is important strictly to comply with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;
3. Emphasizes the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space;
4. Calls upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing agreements and treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;

5. Reiterates that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;
6. Invites the Conference on Disarmament to finalize the examination of the mandate contained in its decision of 13 February 1992, 25/ with a view to updating it as appropriate, thus providing for the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee during the 1999 session of the Conference on Disarmament;
7. Urges States conducting activities in outer space, as well as States interested in conducting such activities, to keep the Conference on Disarmament informed of the progress of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the matter, if any, so as to facilitate its work;
8. Urges States conducting activities in outer space to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space”.

25/ CDI 125.

53/52 Oceans and the law of the sea*

The General Assembly,
Recalling also its resolution 2749 (XXV) of 17 December 1970, and considering that the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 ("the Agreement"), 110/ provides the regime to be applied to the Area and its resources as defined in the Convention,
Recognizing the universal character of the Convention and its fundamental importance for the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security, as well as for the sustainable use and development of the seas and oceans and their resources,
Conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole,

* Noting with satisfaction that oceans and seas will be the sectoral theme discussed at the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in 1999,
Reaffirming the strategic importance of the Convention as a framework for national, regional and global action in the marine sector, as recognized also by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17

23/ CDI 125.
24/ Resolution 2222 (XX), annex.
25/ CDI 125.
26/ Resolution 48/263, annex.

L36 and Add.1, 34.11.1998
110/ Resolution 48/263, annex.

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of Agenda 21, 111/ as well as in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, in particular paragraph 36 dealing with oceans and seas, 112/ Recalling that, by its resolution 49/131 of 19 December 1994, it proclaimed 1998 the International Year of the Ocean, Noting with satisfaction the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention and its Appendices, Recognizing the impact on States of the entry into force of the Convention and the Agreement on the Law of the Sea, and of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and conscious of the need to promote and facilitate international cooperation, especially at the subregional and regional levels, in order to ensure the orderly and sustainable development of the uses and resources of the seas and oceans, Conscious of the importance of education and training in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea, in the programme, is the importance of reliable hydrographic and nautical information to enhance the safety of navigation, taken from the increasing threat to shipping from piracy and armed robbery at sea and its appreciation and support for the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization on the matter, Expressing its appreciation once again to the Secretary-General for his efforts in support of and with regard to the implementation of the Law of the Sea, and of its effective implementation, including providing assistance in the functioning of the institutions created by the Convention, Noting the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 49/28 and 52/26, and emphasizing the importance of the performance of such responsibilities for the effective and consistent implementation of the Convention, Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 113/ and reaffirming the importance of the annual consideration and review by the General Assembly of the overall developments pertaining to the implementation of the Convention, as well as other developments relating to the law of sea and ocean affairs, 1. Calls upon all States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Convention and the Agreement; 2. Reaffirms the unified character of the Convention; 3. Calls upon States to harmonize as a matter of priority their national legislation with the provisions of the Convention, to ensure the consistent application of those provisions and to ensure also that any declarations or statements that they have made or may make when signing, ratifying or acceding are in conformity with the Convention and to withdraw any of their declarations or statements that are not in conformity; 4. Encourages States parties to the Convention particularly to report to the Secretary-General charts and lists of geographical coordinates, as provided for in the Convention; 5. Requests the Secretary-General to convene the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in New York from 19 to 28 May 1999, during which, on 24 May 1999, the election of seven judges of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (“the Tribunal”) will take place; 6. Notes with satisfaction that the Tribunal, established in accordance with Annex VII to the Convention as a new means for the settlement of disputes interpreting the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement, delivered its first judgement on 4 December 1997; 7. Encourages States parties to the Convention to consider making a written declaration choosing from the means set out in article 287 of the Convention for the settlement of disputes interpreting the interpretation or application of provisions of the Annexes V, VI, VII and VIII to the Convention concerning, respectively, the Tribunal, arbitration and special arbitration; 8. Requests the Secretary-General to circulate lists of conciliators and arbitrators drawn up and maintained by the Tribunal in accordance with Annexes V and VII to the Convention and to update these lists accordingly; 9. Notes with satisfaction the progress in the work of the International Seabed Authority (“the Authority”), and emphasizes the importance of ensuring the consistent application of the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules; 10. Notes with appreciation the adoption of the Agreement concerning a regime of access to the resources of the moon and other celestial bodies; 14. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea through its Web site on the Internet; 116/ Notes with satisfaction that the Tribunal, established in accordance with Annex VII to the Convention as a new means for the settlement of disputes interpreting the interpretation or application of provisions of the Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the Authority and the Agreement on Cooperation and Relationship between the United Nations and the Tribunal, delivered its first judgement on 4 December 1997; 18. Requests the Secretary-General to bring to the Secretary-General the alleged perpetrators of justice, in accordance with international law, and appropriate measures to prevent and combat incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea and to investigate or cooperate in the investigation of such incidents by the Secretary-General to enhance the safety of navigation as well as to ensure the greatest uniformity in charts and nautical publications and to coordinate their dissemination so that hydrographic and nautical information is made available on a worldwide scale; 22. Urges all States, in particular coastal States in affected regions, to take all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent and combat incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea and to investigate or cooperate in the investigation of such incidents by the Secretary-General to enhance the safety of navigation as well as to ensure the greatest uniformity in charts and nautical publications and to coordinate their dissemination so that hydrographic and nautical information is made available on a worldwide scale; 23. Calls on the International Maritime Organization to ensure that hydrographic and nautical information is made available on a worldwide scale; 25. Reaffirms its decision to undertake an annual review and evaluation of the implementation of the Convention and other developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea; 26. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to him in the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, including those mentioned in paragraph 11 of resolution 52/26, and to ensure that the performance of such activities is not adversely affected by savings as may be realized under the approved budget for the Organization; 17 Notes with appreciation the continued efforts of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea to provide timely information on the oceans, marine affairs and the law of the sea through its Web site on the Internet; 116/ Notes with interest the ongoing work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization towards a convention for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, relating to the protection of the underwater cultural heritage, and stresses the importance of ensuring that the instrument to be elaborated is in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Convention; 21. Invites States to cooperate in carrying out hydrographic surveys and nautical publications and to coordinate their dissemination so that hydrographic and nautical information is made available on a worldwide scale; 22. Reinforces the unified character of the Convention; 3. Calls upon States to harmonize as a matter of priority their national legislation with the provisions of the Convention, to ensure the consistent application of those provisions and to ensure also that any declarations or statements that they have made or may make when signing, ratifying or acceding are in conformity with the Convention and to withdraw any of their declarations or statements that are not in conformity; 4. Encourages States parties to the Convention particularly to report to the Secretary-General...
lution, including other developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, in connection with its annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea, and to circulate the report sufficiently in advance of consideration by the General Assembly of the item concerning oceans and the law of the sea; 28. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea”.

53/33

Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments*  

The General Assembly, 
Reaffirming its resolutions 52/29 of 26 November 1997, 53/146 of 19 December 1998 and 46/215 of 20 December 1991, as well as other relevant resolutions, 
Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments, 117/ 
Noting the useful role that report plays in bringing together information relating to the sustainable development of the world’s marine living resources, provided by States, relevant intergovernmental organizations, regional and subregional fisheries organizations, and non-governmental organizations, 
Noting with satisfaction that, while significant work remains, interested parties have made real progress towards sustainable fisheries management, 
Welcoming the progress in organizing new regional organizations and arrangements in several heretofore unmanaged fisheries, 
Noting that the secretariat of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations stated that 60–70 per cent of world fisheries are either fully exploited or overfished, and encouraging the current intergovernmental negotiating process going on at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to address the issue of overcapacity, 
Noting with concern the reports of continued loss of seabirds, particularly albatross, as a result of incidental mortality from longline fishing operations, and the loss of other marine species, including sharks and finfish species, as a result of incidental mortality, 
Conscious of the need to promote and facilitate international cooperation, especially at the regional and subregional levels, in order to ensure the sustainable development and use of the living marine resources of the world’s oceans and seas, consistent with the present resolution and with the duties of States to cooperate in the conservation and management of marine living resources, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 118/ 
Once again expressing concern at the impact of large-scale drift-net fishing on the marine living resources of the oceans and seas, and noting that there are continuing reports of activities inconsistent with the terms of resolution 46/165, 
Concerned also to ensure that the implementation of resolution 46/215 in some parts of the world does not result in the transfer to other parts of the world of drift-nets which contravene the resolution, 
Expressing concern at the detrimental impact of unauthorized fishing in semi-enclosed seas and in areas under national jurisdiction on the sustainable development of the world’s fishery resources and on the food security and nutrition of the populations, particularly developing States, and the continuing reports of unauthorized fishing activities, in consistent with the terms of resolution 49/116, in zones of national jurisdiction, 
Recalling that, pursuant to a proposal made at the twenty-second session of the Committee on fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in March 1997, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations agreed to organize an expert consultation to develop and propose guidelines leading to a plan of action aiming at a reduction in the incidental catch of sea birds, to organize an expert consultation to develop and propose guidelines leading to a plan of action for the conservation and effective management of shark populations, and to hold a technical consultation on the management of fishing capacity to draft guidelines for the control and management of fishing capacities, 
Noting with satisfaction that the Consultation on Management of Fishing Capacity, Shark Fisheries and the Incidental Catch of Sea Birds, held from 26 to 30 October 1998, and its preparatory meeting, held in July 1998, produced draft plans of action or elements thereof for approval at the February 1999 meeting of the Committee on Fisheries, 
Recognizing the importance of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks 119/ and the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, and noting that neither of these agreements has yet entered into force, 
Noting that the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries sets out principles and global standards of behaviour for responsible practices to conserve, manage and develop fisheries, including the use of fishing on the high seas and areas under the national jurisdiction of other States, and on fishing gear selectivity and practices, with the aim of reducing by-catch and discards, 
Noting also that Agenda 21, 120/ adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, calls upon States to take effective action, consistent with international law, to deter flagging of vessels by their nationals as a means of avoiding compliance with applicable conservation and management rules for fishing vessels on the high seas, 
Noting with satisfaction that “Oceans and seas” will be the sectoral theme discussed by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, in 1999, 
1. Reaffirms the importance it attaches to sustainable management and conservation of the marine living resources of the world’s oceans and seas, and the obligations of States to cooperate to this end, in accordance with international law, in the conservation and management of straddling fisheries referred to in article 10, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in particular, the provisions on conservation and management of straddling fisheries referred to in article 10, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in particular, the provisions on conservation and management of straddling fisheries referred to in article 10, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in particular, the provisions on conservation and management of straddling fisheries referred to in article 10, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 
2. Reaffirms the importance it attaches to compliance with its resolutions 46/215, 49/116, 51/36, and 52/29, and urges States and other entities to enforce fully such measures; 
3. Requests all participants to work for the implementation of the technical consultation on the food and agriculture organization of the United Nations held in Rome from 26 to 30 October 1998, and encourages all States parties to continue to cooperate responsibly, as appropriate, with non-governmental organizations, and to consider applying it provisionally; 
5. Further calls upon States and other entities referred to in article 10, paragraph 2, of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, to promote and encourage the development and use of international law, as reflected in the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in particular, the provisions on conservation and management of straddling fisheries referred to in article 10, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in particular, the provisions on conservation and management of straddling fisheries referred to in article 10, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 
7. Calls upon States that have not done so to take measures, including measures to deter flagging to avoid compliance with applicable obligations, to ensure that fishing vessels entitled to fly their flags do not fish in areas under the national jurisdiction of other States unless duly 

* L.45 and Add.1, 24.11.1998  
117/ A/53/483.  

119/ A/CONF. 164/37; see also A/50/550, annex 1.
authorized by the authorities of the State concerned and in accordance with the conditions set out in the authorization, and not to fish on the high seas in contravention of the applicable conservation and management rules;

8. Requests States, relevant international organizations and regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to take action, including through assistance to developing countries, to reduce by-catches, fish discards and post-harvest losses, consistent with international law and relevant international instruments, including the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;

9. Reiterates its call on organizations with development assistance programmes to make it a high priority to support, through financial and/or technical assistance, the efforts of developing coastal States, in particular the least developed countries and the island and developing States, to improve the monitoring and control of fishing activities and the enforcement of fishing regulations, including through financial and technical support for regional and subregional meetings for this purpose;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, relevant intergovernmental organizations, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, regional fisheries management organizations, and relevant non-governmental organizations, and to invite them to provide the Secretary-General with information relevant to the implementation of the present resolution;

11. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that reporting on all major fisheries-related activities and instruments is effectively coordinated, that any duplication of activities and reporting is minimized, and that all relevant scientific and technical studies are disseminated to the international community, and invites the relevant specialized agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as regional and subregional fisheries organizations and arrangements, to cooperate with the Secretary-General to that end;

12. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on further developments relating to the implementation of resolution 52/23, the status and implementation of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures for Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, and efforts undertaken in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, referred to in paragraph 8 of resolution 52/23, taking into account the information provided by States, relevant specialized agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other appropriate organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and arrangements, to report on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments.

**STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

1. Global Environment Outlook**

The Governing Council,

Having considered the progress report of the Executive Director on the Global Environment Outlook process (UNEP/GC.25/3),

1. Notes with appreciation the broad participatory approach undertaken to prepare the second and third Global Environment Outlook reports in the development and implementation of their environmental assessment, management actions and programmes;

2. Urges Governments and the Executive Director to take into account the findings and recommendations of the second Global Environment Outlook report in the development and implementation of their environmental assessment, management actions and programmes;

3. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session a Global Environment Outlook user profile and a detailed analysis of the actual use of the first and second Global Environment Outlook and the Global Environment Outlook process, together with a proposal for an optimal frequency and production schedule for future Global Environment Outlook and related reports;

4. Requests the Executive Director to produce, in close collaboration with Governments, United Nations agencies and bodies, and collaborating and associated centres and experts, a third Global Environment Outlook report in the form of a “30 Years After Stockholm” report, to be launched in 2002, following the full participatory Global Environment Outlook approach;

5. Requests the Executive Director to actively collaborate with the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the World Resource Institute and other relevant institutions in the preparation of the next issue of the World Resources Report, to be launched in December 2000, which will focus on global ecosystems condition and trends and promoting the concept of a comprehensive science-based assessment of the world’s ecosystems, and to simultaneously produce an expert report on policy responses to changes in the ecosystems dealt with in the World Resources Report 2000;

6. Urges major actors in data compilation and in global report production, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Statistical Office, United Nations regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and the World Resources Institute, to collaborate in the production and use of a common data and knowledge base, comprising indicators, models, scenarios and expert systems, in order to avoid duplication, save costs and ensure that global reports are mutually supportive. Each agency would thus approach sustainable development from its particular perspective, while taking advantage of the information in the other reports to get a complete picture of sustainable development.

2. Environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

The Governing Council,


Having considered the progress report of the Executive Director on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (UNEP/GC.20/4),

1. Welcomes the activities which the United Nations Environment Programme is undertaking in association with the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab Territories;

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue participating in the activities of the multilateral working groups of the Middle East peace process, as well as the activities of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories, in order to ensure that environmental concerns are given due priority;

3. Expresses its concern regarding the continuing environmental degradation in the occupied Palestinian including those in the Palestinian and other Arab territories;

4. Requests the Executive Director to prepare a comprehensive report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, in keeping with the above-mentioned decisions of the Governing Council, and requests him to present the report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

**EMERGING POLICY ISSUES**

1. Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law beyond the year 2000*

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law beyond the year 2000 (UNEP/GC.20/5),

1. Takes note with appreciation of the progress made in the further implementation of the Programme for the Development and Peri...