

UN/GA

Resolutions of the 54th General Assembly of the United Nations*

– Selection –

54/28

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,

Recalling 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,
- (d) To encourage the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law,

Noting the conclusion of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Reaffirming its resolution 53/101 of 8 December 1998, entitled "Principles and guidelines for international negotiations", adopted within the framework of the Decade,

Greatly encouraged by the significant achievements in the development and promotion of international law which occurred during the Decade, which have contributed to the strengthening of the rule of international law,

Recognizing that, *inter alia*, the establishment of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in 1993, the International Tribunal for Rwanda in 1994 and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in 1996 and the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 1998 constitute significant events within the Decade;

Recognizing also efforts made during the Decade by Legal Advisers of the

Ministries of Foreign Affairs worldwide to create a common understanding of their role through annual informal consultations at the Headquarters of the United Nations,

Convinced that the end of the Decade affords the international community an opportunity to reflect on those achievements and that States, international organizations and educational institutions should continue to encourage and promote activities in the legal field aimed at contributing to its main purposes,

Convinced also of the need to continue aiming towards the implementation of the main purposes of the Decade,

Welcoming the significant increase in the recourse to the International Court of Justice by States for the settlement of disputes,

Noting that international humanitarian law has been an important topic during the United Nations Decade of International Law, and mindful of the contributions made in this field by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conferences,

Noting also that the year 1999 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments of the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of the Netherlands for their efforts in realization of the programme of action dedicated to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference, which could be regarded as a significant contribution to the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Taking note with interest of the consideration of the outcome of the actions dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference in the General Assembly during its fifty-fourth regular session,

Expressing its gratitude to all organizations, groups and individuals who contributed to the discussion of the centennial themes,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,¹ and expressing its appreciation therefor,

Noting the deposit by the Secretary-General, on 21 December 1998, of an act of formal confirmation, on behalf of the United Nations, of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations of 21 March 1986,

Welcoming the progress that has been made towards eliminating the backlog in the publication of the United Nations *Treaty Series* by the implementation of a plan to be completed in 2001, and stressing the need for the elimination of such a backlog, as well as for bringing up-to-date and putting on the Internet the work of the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat,

Recalling that, at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Sixth Committee established the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Noting that the Working Group continued its work during the fifty-fourth session in accordance with resolution 53/100,

Having considered the oral report of the Chairperson of the Working Group to the Sixth Committee,

1. **Expresses its appreciation** for the work done by the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law;

2. **Acknowledges** that the Decade has contributed significantly to the strengthening of the rule of international law;

3. **Reaffirms** the continued validity of the main objectives of the Decade, the fulfilment of which is essential to achieve the purposes of the United Nations;

4. **Expresses its appreciation** to States and international organizations and institutions that have undertaken activities in the implementation of the programme for the activities for the final term (1997–1999) of the Decade;

** Report A/54/609.

¹ A/54/362 and Add.1.

* Adopted during the first part of the 54th Session, 14 September to 23 December 1999. See also page 21. All environmentally relevant resolutions are published in *International Protection of the Environment*, Oceana Publications, Inc., Dobbs Ferry, New York.

5. **Requests** the Secretary-General to continue developing the Treaty Section electronic database, with a view to providing Member States expeditiously with a wider range of easily accessible treaty-related information on the electronic medium, and to keep the list, now available on the Internet, of the titles of the multilateral treaties deposited with him updated in all official languages of the Organization;

6. **Urges** States and international organizations, in particular depositaries, to continue assisting the Secretariat of the United Nations in its efforts to expedite the registration of treaties and their publication by providing it with paper copies of treaties, or electronic copies, including maps, for registration and, wherever possible, translations of treaties in English or French;

7. **Requests** the Secretary-General to implement vigorously the plan to eliminate the backlog in the publication of the United Nations *Treaty Series*, and highlights, in this context, the relevance of timely translations;

8. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat for the establishment during the Decade of various Web sites and the United Nations Audiovisual Library in International Law, and takes note of its efforts to maintain those sites and the Library;

9. **Notes** the publication by the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat of the *Collection of Essays by Legal Advisers of States, Legal Advisers of International Organizations and Practitioners in the Field of International Law* and its intention to issue in 2000 two publications entitled *International Instruments related to the Prevention and Suppression of International Terrorism* and *The United Nations and the Development of International Law during the 1990s* to highlight the work accomplished in this area during the Decade;

10. **Invites** States, organs of the United Nations, international organizations and other relevant international forums to continue to give attention to the themes and outcome of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference;

11. **Congratulates** the Permanent Court of Arbitration on its 100th anniversary, commends that organization for its role in the international system of peaceful dispute resolution, and invites States to consider making full use of the facilities of the Court to support its work;²

12. **Expresses its appreciation** to the International Committee of the Red Cross for its activities undertaken in the field of international humanitarian law, including

with regard to the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict;

13. **Invites** States and international organizations to continue promoting the acceptance of and respect for the rules and principles of international law;

14. **Welcomes** the achievements during the Decade in the codification and progressive development of international law, and calls upon States, in order to contribute further to the rule of international law, to consider, if they have not yet done so, becoming parties to the multilateral treaties adopted during the Decade, including those listed in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General;³

15. **Invites** States and international organizations to continue promoting the strengthening of the use of means and methods of peaceful settlement of disputes;

16. **Recalls** that States have the obligation to solve their disputes by peaceful means, including resort to the Interna-



Courtesy: FAZ

tional Court of Justice, and that one of the main purposes of the Decade is to promote the full respect for the Court in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter;

17. **Invites** States to continue to pay attention to the identification of areas of international law that might be ripe for progressive development or codification, and to promote discussion thereon in the competent forums;

18. **Invites** States and international organizations to continue encouraging the publication of books or other materials on subjects of international law and the holding of symposia, conferences, seminars or other meetings aimed at promoting a wider appreciation of international law;

19. **Invites** States to continue encouraging educational institutions to introduce or

increase the number of courses they run on international law;

20. **Requests** the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of States, international organizations and institutions working in the field of international law;

21. **Decides** to continue considering developments in the progress made in the implementation of the purposes of the Decade beyond its conclusion, in the framework of the agenda item entitled "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law". □

54/31

Oceans and the law of the sea*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/28 of 6 December 1994, 52/26 of 26 November 1997 and 53/32 of 24 November 1998 and other relevant resolutions adopted subsequent to the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea¹ ("the Convention") on 16 November 1994,

Recalling also its resolution 2749 (XXV) of 17 December 1970, and considering that the Convention, together with the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982² ("the Agreement"), provides the regime to be applied to the Area and its resources as defined in the Convention,

Emphasizing 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 the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention and to the Agreement,

Recognizing the impact on States of the entry into force of the Convention and the Agreement and the increasing need, particularly of developing States, for advice and assistance in their implementation in order to benefit thereunder,

Noting that developing countries, in particular small island developing States,

* L.31 and Add.1.

¹ *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

² Resolution 48/263, annex.

² A/54/381, annex, para. 9.

³ Resolutions 44/23, 51/157, 52/153 and 53/100.

may need assistance in the preparation and publication of charts under articles 16, 22, 47, 75 and 84 and annex II to the Convention,

Taking note with concern of the financial situation of the International Seabed Authority and of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea,

Conscious of the need to promote and facilitate international cooperation at the subregional, regional and global levels, in order to ensure the orderly and sustainable development of the uses and resources of the seas and oceans,

Conscious also of the importance of education and training in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea,

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 of Agenda 21,³

Welcoming the review by the Commission on Sustainable Development on oceans and seas and the adoption of the recommendations made by the Commission through the Economic and Social Council,⁴

Taking note of the major challenges as well as the areas of particular concern facing the international community, as formulated in the recommendations on oceans and seas made by the Commission on Sustainable Development through the Economic and Social Council,⁵

Expressing its concern in this context at the continuing threat posed to the sea by the dumping of nuclear waste and other toxic substances,

Recognizing the positive benefits for the marine environment that can be achieved through cooperative work within the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Expressing its concern at the increasing threat to shipping from piracy and armed robbery at sea, and expressing its appreciation and support for the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization in this area,

Reaffirming the importance of enhancing the safety of navigation as well as the necessity for cooperation in this regard,

Emphasizing the importance of the protection of underwater cultural heritage, and recalling in this context the provisions of article 303 of the Convention,

Expressing its appreciation once again to the Secretary-General for his efforts in support of the Convention and in 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,⁶ 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 of other developments relating to the law of the 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 to 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 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 to deposit with the Secretary-General charts and lists of geographical coordinates, as provided for in the Convention;

5. **Urges** the international community to assist, as appropriate, developing countries, including small island developing States, in the preparation and publication of charts under articles 16, 22, 47, 75 and 84 and annex II to the Convention;

6. **Requests** the Secretary-General to convene the tenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in New York from 22–26 May 2000;

7. **Notes with satisfaction** the continued contribution of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ("the Tribunal") to the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with Part XV of the Convention, and underlines its important role

and authority concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement;

8. **Encourages** States parties to the Convention to consider making a written declaration choosing from the means set out in article 287 for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement, and invites States to note the provisions of annexes V, VI, VII and VIII to the Convention concerning, respectively, conciliation, the Tribunal, arbitration and special arbitration;

9. **Requests** the Secretary-General to circulate lists of conciliators and arbitrators drawn up and maintained in accordance with annexes V and VII to the Convention and to update these lists accordingly;

10. **Notes** the current work of the International Seabed Authority ("the Authority"), and emphasizes the importance of the commitment of its members to work expeditiously towards the adoption during 2000 of the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules;

11. **Notes with appreciation** the adoption of the Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Authority;⁷

12. **Calls upon** States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Tribunal⁸ and to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the Authority;⁹

13. **Appeals** to all States parties to the Convention to pay their assessed contributions to the Authority and to the Tribunal, respectively, in full and on time in order to ensure that they are able to carry out their functions as provided for in the Convention, and appeals also to the States which are former provisional members of the Authority to pay any outstanding contributions;

14. **Notes** the progress in the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ("the Commission"), including the adoption of the scientific and technical guidelines and annexes thereto¹⁰ aimed at facilitating the preparation of submissions regarding the outer limits of the continental shelf in accordance with article 76 and annex II to the Convention, and the adoption of an action plan on training,¹¹ taking into account, in particular, the needs of developing States;

15. **Welcomes** the decision of the Commission to convene an open meeting dur-

³ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 9 (E/1999/29)*, chap. I.C, decision 7/1.

⁵ *Ibid.*, paras. 3–36.

⁶ A/54/429 and Corr. 1.

⁷ ISB/5/A/11, annex.

⁸ SPLOS/25.

⁹ ISBA/4/A/8.

¹⁰ CLCS/11 and Add.1

¹¹ CLCS/19.

ing its seventh session, aimed at familiarizing States with the necessity to implement the provisions of article 76 and annex II to the Convention relating to the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, and encourages States to attend the meeting;

16. **Approves** the convening by the Secretary-General of the seventh session of the Commission in New York from 1–5 May 2000 and, if necessary, an eighth session from 28 August to 1 September 2000;

17. **Urges** States to take all practicable steps to prevent the pollution of the sea by dumping of radioactive materials and industrial wastes, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 1972 Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter¹² and its amendments;

18. **Calls upon** States to become parties to and to implement the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter;¹³

19. **Encourages** States to continue to support the regional seas programme, which has achieved success in a number of geographic areas, and to work within the United Nations Environment Programme to enhance cooperation in the protection of the marine environment;

20. **Calls upon** States to cooperate fully with the International Maritime Organization to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships, including by submitting reports on incidents to that Organization;

21. **Also calls upon** States to implement the International Maritime Organization guidelines on preventing piracy and armed robbery and to cooperate with the International Maritime Organization Correspondence Group, established to draw up standard guidelines for Governments in investigating attacks against ships and prosecuting offenders, and with other initiatives of the organization in this area;

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, including through regional cooperation, and to investigate or cooperate in the investigation of such incidents wherever they occur and bring the alleged perpetrators to justice, in accordance with international law;

23. **Urges** States to become parties to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and its Protocol,¹⁴ and to ensure its effective implementation;

¹² United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1046, No. I-15749.

¹³ IMO/ILC.2/CIRC.380.

24. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Secretary-General for the annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea¹⁵ prepared by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, as well as for the other activities of the Division, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the mandate set forth in resolutions 49/28 and 52/26;

25. **Requests** the Secretary-General to ensure that the institutional capacity of the Organization adequately responds to the needs of States, the newly established institutions under the Convention and other competent international organizations by providing timely advice, information, including the information in his report, and assistance, taking into account the special needs of developing countries;

26. **Also 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;

27. **Reaffirms** the importance of ensuring the uniform and consistent application of the Convention and a coordinated approach to its overall implementation, and of strengthening technical cooperation and financial assistance for this purpose, stresses once again the continuing importance of the efforts of the Secretary-General to these ends, and reiterates its invitation to the competent international organizations and other international bodies to support these objectives;

28. **Invites** Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute to the further development of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship Programme on the Law of the Sea established by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/116 of 10 December 1980;

29. **Also invites** Member States to support the training activities under the TRAIN-SEA-COAST programme of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea;

30. **Notes** the continued 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 re-emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the instrument to be

¹⁴ IMO publication, Sales No. 462 88.12 E.

¹⁵ A/54/429 and Corr.1.

elaborated is in full conformity with the relevant provisions of the Convention;

31. **Requests** the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

32. **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, taking into account General Assembly resolution 54/33;¹⁶

33. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including other developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, in connection with his annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea, and to provide the report in accordance with the modalities set out in General Assembly resolution 54/33;¹⁷

34. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea". □

¹⁶ Resolution to be adopted under sub-item 40 (c).

¹⁷ Ibid.

54/32

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*

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,¹ including Part VII, section 2,

Recognizing that 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 Stocks² ("the Agreement") sets forth the rights and obligations of States

* L.28 and Add. 1 (as orally revised).

¹ *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 84.V.3), document A/Conf.62/122.

² A/CONF.104/37; see also A/50/550, annex 1.

in authorizing the use of vessels flying their flags for fishing on the high seas,

Noting that while 24 States or entities have ratified or acceded to the Agreement, the Agreement has not yet entered into force,

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,

Noting that the stock situation for some species of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks is of great concern due to the fact that those stocks have not been subject to adequate regulatory measures,

Recognizing the importance of actions States and other entities should take in order to share responsibly in the use of high seas fishery resources, including straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, as outlined in Parts III and IV of the Agreement,

Recognizing also the duty provided in the Agreement and reiterated as a principle in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for flag States to exercise effective control over fishing vessels flying their flag and vessels flying their flag which provide support to such vessels, and to ensure that the activities of such vessels do not undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management measures taken in accordance with international law and adopted at the national, subregional, regional or global levels,

Recognizing further that a number of regional fishing organizations and arrangements with competence to establish conservation and management measures regarding straddling fish stocks and/or highly migratory fish stocks are already taking significant conservation measures to promote the recovery and long-term sustainable use of fish stocks worldwide, and that in order for those efforts to succeed it is important that all States and entities, including those which are not members of these organizations or party to these arrangements, comply with and observe these conservation and management measures,

Taking note of the obligation of States and other entities and regional and subregional fishery management organizations and arrangements to take measures to prevent or eliminate overfishing, and encouraging all States to participate in the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the subject,

Noting that some regional fisheries organizations and arrangements, including those mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General,^{3, 4} have recently taken measures to ensure that fishing vessels flying the flags of non-members of those organizations or non-parties to those arrangements do not undermine the regionally adopted conservation and management measures,

Recognizing that the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas builds upon the legal framework established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and also recognizing the importance of that Agreement and noting that it also has not yet entered into force,

Taking note with concern that straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks in some parts of the world have been subject to heavy and little-regulated fishing efforts, and that some stocks continue to be overfished, mainly as a result of unauthorized fishing,

Concerned that illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, including that noted in the report of the Secretary-General,⁵ threatens serious depletion of populations of certain fish species, and in that regard urging States and entities to collaborate in efforts to address these types of fishing activities,

Noting the importance of the wide application of the precautionary approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, in accordance with the Agreement,

Reaffirming the importance it attaches to compliance with its resolution 46/215 of 20 December 1991, in particular those provisions calling for full implementation of a global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas of the world's oceans and seas,

including enclosed seas and semi-enclosed seas,

Reaffirming also its resolution 49/116 of 19 December 1994 on unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, as well as its resolution 52/28 of 26 November 1997 and other relevant resolutions,

1. **Welcomes** the Secretary-General's report⁶ on recent developments and the current status 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;⁷
2. **Calls upon** all States and other entities referred to in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement that have not done so to ratify or accede to it and to consider applying it provisionally;
3. **Emphasizes** the importance of the early entry into force and effective implementation of the Agreement;
4. **Reaffirms** the importance it attaches to compliance with its resolutions 46/215 of 20 December 1991, 49/116 and 49/118 of 19 December 1994 and 52/28 of 26 November 1997, and urges States and other entities to enforce such measures fully;
5. **Calls upon** all States and other entities referred to in article X, paragraph 1, of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas that have not done so to accept that Agreement;
6. **Calls upon** all States to ensure that their vessels comply with conservation and management measures that have been adopted in accordance with the Agreement by subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements;
7. **Calls upon** States not to permit vessels flying their flag to engage in fishing on the high seas without having effective control over their activities and to take specific measures to control fishing operations by vessels flying their flag;
8. **Calls upon** the International Maritime Organization, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, and other relevant international organizations, and in consultation with States and entities, to define the concept of the genuine link between the fishing

³ A/54/461.

⁴ The organizations and arrangements mentioned in the Secretary-General's report are: International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, Commission on Biological Resources of the Caspian Sea, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency, Multilateral High Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific, Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission, Fishery Committee for Eastern Central Atlantic and South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization.

⁵ A/54/429, paras. 249-257 and 300-304.

⁶ A/54/461.

⁷ A/CONF.104/37; see also A/50/550, annex 1.

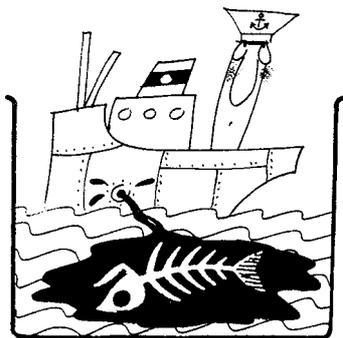
vessel and the State in order to assist in the implementation of the Agreement;

9. **Urges** all States to participate in the efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to develop an international plan of action to address illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, in particular the Meeting of Experts and Technical Consultation in the Food and Agriculture Organization scheduled for 2000, and in all efforts to coordinate all the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization with other international organizations, including the International Maritime Organization;

10. **Encourages** all States and entities concerned to work with flag States and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in developing and implementing measures to combat or curb illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing;

11. **Calls upon** States to provide assistance to developing States as outlined in the Agreement, and notes the importance of participation by representatives of developing States in forums in which fisheries issues are discussed;

12. **Encourages** States and other entities to integrate in an appropriate manner the requirements of the protection of the environment, notably those resulting from



Courtesy: Ministry of the Environment (S)

multilateral environmental agreements, in the management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks;

13. **Requests** the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, relevant inter-governmental organizations, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, regional and subregional fisheries management organizations or arrangements and relevant non-governmental organizations, and invites them to provide the Secretary-General with information relevant to the implementation of the present resolution;

14. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on further

developments relating to the implementation of the present resolution;

15. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session, under an item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea", the sub-item entitled "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". □

54/33

Results of the review by the Commission on Sustainable Development of the sectoral theme of "oceans and seas": international coordination and cooperation*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/28 of 6 December 1994 on the Law of the Sea and 53/32 of 24 November 1998 on Oceans and the Law of the Sea,

Mindful of the importance of the oceans and seas for the earth's ecosystem and for providing the vital resources for food security and for sustaining economic prosperity, and the well-being of present and future generations,

Convinced that all aspects of oceans and seas are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole,

Recalling that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea¹ ("the Convention") sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, and with which these activities should be consistent, as recognized also by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,²

Recognizing the importance of maintaining the integrity of the Convention,

Convinced of the importance of the annual consideration and review of ocean affairs and the law of the sea by the General Assembly, as the global institution having the competence to undertake such a review,

Convinced also of the need, building on existing arrangements, for an inte-

grated approach to all legal, economic, social, environmental and other relevant aspects of oceans and seas and the need to improve coordination and cooperation at both inter-governmental and inter-agency levels,

Bearing in mind the necessity of strengthening existing structures and mandates within the United Nations system and the need to avoid duplication or overlapping of debates that take place in other forums,

Recognizing the important role that international organizations have in relation to ocean affairs and in promoting sustainable development of the oceans and seas and their resources,

Recognizing also the significant contribution that major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, can make to this goal,

Welcoming the review of the sectoral theme of "oceans and seas" by the Commission on Sustainable Development, in particular those aspects related to international coordination and cooperation,

1. **Endorses** the recommendations made by the Commission on Sustainable Development through the Economic and Social Council under the sectoral theme of "oceans and seas" regarding international coordination and cooperation;³

2. **Decides**, consistent with the legal framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the goals of chapter 17 of Agenda 21, to establish an open-ended informal consultative process in order to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly, in an effective and constructive manner, of developments in ocean affairs by considering the Secretary-General's report on oceans and the law of the sea and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by it, with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at inter-governmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced;

3. **Also decides** that the meetings within the framework of the consultative process will be organized as follows:

(a) The meetings will be open to all States Members of the United Nations, States members of the specialized agencies, all parties to the Convention, entities that have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the work of the General Assembly pursuant to its relevant resolutions,⁴ and intergovernmental or-

* L.32 and Add.1.

¹ *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*, 1999, *Supplement No. 9 (E/1999/29)*, chap. I, sect. C, decision 7/1, paras. 37-45.

⁴ Resolutions 253 (III), 477 (V), 2011 (XX), 3208 (XXIX), 3269 (XXX), 31/3, 33/18, 35/2, 35/3, 36/4, 42/10, 43/6, 45/6, 46/8, 47/4, 48/2, 48/3, 48/4, 48/5, 48/237, 48/265, 49/1, 49/2, 50/2, 51/1, 51/6, 51/404, 52/6, 53/5, 53/6, 54/5 and 54/10.

ganizations with competence in ocean affairs;

(b) The meetings will take place for one week each year and in 2000 will be held from 30 May to 2 June;

(c) The meetings will deliberate on the Secretary-General's report on oceans and the law of the sea, with due account given to any particular resolution or decision of the General Assembly, any relevant special reports of the Secretary-General and any relevant recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(d) The meetings should, in identifying areas where coordination and cooperation are to be enhanced, bear in mind the differing characteristics and needs of the different regions of the world, and should not pursue legal or juridical coordination among the different legal instruments;

(e) The meetings will be coordinated by two co-chairpersons, who will be appointed by the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States and taking into account the need for representation from developed and developing countries;

(f) The co-chairpersons will elaborate, in consultation with delegations, a format for the discussions that best facilitates the work of the consultative process, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the General Assembly;

(g) In accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the General Assembly, the format of this informal consultative process should ensure the opportunity to receive input from representatives of the major groups as identified in Agenda 21, in particular through the organization of discussion panels;

(h) The meetings may propose elements for the consideration of the General Assembly, including, as appropriate, in relation to Assembly resolutions under the agenda item entitled "Oceans and the Law of the Sea";

4. **Further decides** to review the effectiveness and utility of the consultative process at its fifty-seventh session;

5. **Highlights** the importance of the participation of developing countries, including least developed countries and small island developing States, in the consultative process, and encourages States and international organizations to support efforts in this regard;

6. **Requests** the Secretary-General to provide the consultative process with the necessary facilities for the performance of its work and to arrange for support to be provided by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, in cooperation with other relevant parts of the Sec-

retariat, including the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as appropriate;

7. **Also requests** the Secretary-General, working in cooperation with the heads of relevant organizations of the United Nations, to include in his annual comprehensive report to the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea, suggestions on initiatives that could be undertaken to improve coordination and cooperation and achieve better integration on ocean affairs, and further requests the Secretary-General to make the report available at least six weeks in advance of the meeting of the consultative process;

8. **Further requests** the Secretary-General, working through appropriate United Nations bodies and in cooperation with the heads of relevant organizations, funds or programmes of the United Nations, to undertake measures aimed at:

(a) Ensuring more effective collaboration and coordination between relevant parts of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations system as a whole on ocean affairs and the law of the sea;

(b) Improving the effectiveness, transparency and responsiveness of the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and to include information on progress in this regard in his next report on oceans and the law of the sea;

9. **Notes** the importance of coordination and cooperation at the national level in order to promote an integrated approach on ocean affairs, so as, *inter alia*, to facilitate the effective participation of States in the consultative process and other international forums;

10. **Requests** the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of heads of inter-governmental organizations, specialized agencies and funds and programmes of the United Nations engaged in activities relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, and the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and underlines the importance of their participation in the consultative process and of their input to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea;

11. **Invites** Member States, as part of their participation in relevant competent bodies of inter-governmental organizations engaged in activities relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, to encourage their participation in the consultative process and their contribution to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea. □

54/45

Question of Antarctica*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/56 of 10 December 1996, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit a report consisting of the information provided by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties on their consultative meetings and on their activities in Antarctica, and on developments in relation to Antarctica,

Taking into account the debates on the question of Antarctica held since its thirty-eighth session,

Conscious of the particular significance of Antarctica to the international community, including for international peace and security, the global and regional environment, its effects on global and regional climate conditions, and scientific research,

Reaffirming that the management and use of Antarctica should be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for the benefit of mankind as a whole,

Recognizing that the Antarctic Treaty,¹ which provides, *inter alia*, for the demilitarization of the continent, the prohibition of nuclear explosions and the disposal of nuclear wastes, the freedom of scientific research and the free exchange of scientific information, is in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Madrid Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty on 14 January 1998, under which Antarctica has been designated as a natural reserve, devoted to peace and science, and the provisions contained in the Protocol regarding the protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems, including the need for environmental impact assessment in the planning and conduct of all relevant activities in Antarctica,

Welcoming the continuing cooperation among countries undertaking scientific research activities in Antarctica, which may help to minimize human impact on the Antarctic environment,

Welcoming also the increasing awareness of an interest in Antarctica shown by the international community, and convinced of the advantages to the whole

* Report A/54/553.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 402, No. 5778.

of mankind of a better knowledge of Antarctica,

Reaffirming its conviction that, in the interest of all mankind, Antarctica should continue for ever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it should not become the scene or object of international discord,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica² and the role accorded by the Secretary-General to the United Nations Environment Programme in preparing his report and also of the Twenty-first, Twenty-second and Twenty-third Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings, which were held at Christchurch, New Zealand, from 19–30 May 1997, at Tromsø, Norway, from 25 May to 5 June 1998, and at Lima, from 24 May to 4 June 1999, respectively;

2. **Recalls** the statement under chapter 17 of Agenda 21,³ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, that States carrying out research activities in Antarctica should, as provided for in article III of the Antarctic Treaty, continue:

(a) To ensure that data and information resulting from such research are freely available to the international community;

(b) To enhance the access of the international scientific community and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to such data and information, including the encouragement of periodic seminars and symposia;

3. **Welcomes** the invitations to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to attend Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings in order to assist such meetings in their substantive work, and urges the parties to continue to do so for future consultative meetings;

4. **Welcomes also** the practice whereby the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties regularly provide the Secretary-General with information on their consultative meetings and on their activities in Antarctica, and encourages the Parties to continue to provide the Secretary-General and interested States with information on developments in relation to Antarctica, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report which shall consist of that information to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

5. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica". □

² A/54/3390.

³ See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. 1: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution I, annex II, chap. 17. 105.

54/53

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, shall 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 the provisions of articles III and IV 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,¹

Recalling 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,² in which it is stated that in order to prevent an arms race in outer space further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this issue, and taking note of 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

* Report: A/54/562.

¹ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

² Resolution S-10/2.

Space, taking into account its previous efforts since its establishment in 1985 and seeking to enhance its functioning in qualitative terms, continued the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space³, 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 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 1992,⁴

Emphasizing the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space, and hoping 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 conformity with the provisions of the Treaty

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/49/27)*, sect. III.D (para. 5 of the quoted text).

⁴ CD/1125.

on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;

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 to comply strictly 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 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 complete the examination and updating of the mandate contained in its decision of 13 February 1992⁵ and to establish an *ad hoc* committee as early as possible during the 2000 session of the Conference on Disarmament;

7. **Recognizes**, in this respect, the growing convergence of views on the elaboration of measures designed to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in the peaceful uses of outer space;

8. **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;

9. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space". □

⁵ CD/1125.

54/54 General and complete disarmament – Excerpts –

C. Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes*

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind resolutions CM/Res. 1153(XLVIII) of 1988¹ and CM/Res.1225 (L) of 1989,² adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, concerning the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa,

Welcoming resolution GC(XXXIV) Res/530 establishing a Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste, adopted on 21 September 1990 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-fourth regular session,³

Also welcoming resolution GC(XXXVIII) Res/6, adopted on 23 September 1994 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-eighth regular session,⁴ inviting the Board of Governors and the Director General of the Agency to commence preparations for a convention on the safety of radioactive waste management, and noting the progress that has been made in that regard,

Taking note of the commitment by the participants at the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996, to ban the dumping at sea of radioactive wastes,⁵

Considering its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,⁶ *inter alia*, to consider effective methods of control against the use of radiological methods of warfare,

Recalling resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of

* Report: A/54/563.

¹ See A/43/398, annex I.

² See A/44/603, annex I.

³ See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Divisions of the General Conference, Thirty-fourth Regular Session*, 17-21 September 1990 (GC(XXXIV)/RESOLUTIONS (1990)).

⁴ See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Thirty-eighth Regular Session*, 19-23 September 1994 (GC(XXXVIII)/RESOLUTIONS (1994)).

⁵ A/51/131, annex I, para. 20.

⁶ The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament became the Committee on Disarmament as from the tenth special session of the General Assembly. The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

Ministers of the Organization of African Unity,⁷ on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa,

Aware of the potential hazards underlying any use of radioactive wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and its implications for regional and international security, in particular for the security of developing countries,

Recalling all its resolutions on the matter since its forty-third session in 1988, including its resolution 51/45 J of 10 December 1996,

Desirous of promoting the implementation of paragraph 76 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,⁸ the first special session devoted to disarmament,

1. **Takes note** of the part of the report of the Conference on Disarmament relating to a future convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons;⁹

2. **Expresses grave concern** regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States;

3. **Calls upon** all States to take appropriate measures with a view to preventing any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States;

4. **Requests** the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention;

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-sixth session the progress recorded in the negotiations 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 Unity, on the Bamako 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 dump-

⁷ See A/46/390, annex I.

⁸ Resolution S-10/2.

⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/54/27)*, chap. III, Sect. E.

ing of radioactive wastes on their territories;

8. **Welcomes** the adoption at Vienna on 5 September 1997 of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, as recommended by the participants in the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996, 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 its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes". □

Q. Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 K of 15 December 1994, 51/45 M of 10 December 1996, 52/38 O of 9 December 1997 and 53/77 W of 4 December 1998,

Convinced that the continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to all humanity and that their use would have catastrophic consequences for all life on Earth, and recognizing that the only defence against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the certainty that they will never be produced again,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Mindful of the solemn obligations of States parties, undertaken in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,¹ particularly to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

Recalling the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties

* Report: A/54/563.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

² 1995 *Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I))*, annex, decision 2.

to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,² and in particular the objective of determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons,

Recalling also the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996, and expressing its satisfaction at the increasing number of States that have signed and ratified the Treaty,

Recognizing with satisfaction that the Antarctic Treaty³ and the treaties of Tlatelolco,⁴ Rarotonga,⁵ Bangkok⁶ and Pelindaba⁷ are gradually freeing the entire southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons,

Noting the efforts by the States possessing the largest inventories of nuclear weapons to reduce their stockpiles of such weapons through bilateral agreements or arrangements and unilateral decisions, and calling for the intensification of such efforts to accelerate the significant reduction of nuclear-weapon arsenals,

Recognizing the need for a multilaterally negotiated and legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the threat or use of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming the central role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, and regretting the lack of progress in disarmament negotiations, particularly nuclear disarmament, in the Conference on Disarmament during its 1999 session,

Emphasizing the need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time,

Desiring to achieve the objective of a legally binding prohibition of the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, threat or use of nuclear weapons and their destruction under effective international control,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, issued on 8 July 1996,⁸

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 402, No. 5778.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

⁵ See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 10: 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.7), VII.

⁶ Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone.

⁷ A/50/426, annex.

⁸ A/51/218, annex.

⁹ A/54/161 and Add.1.

Taking note of the relevant portions of the note by the Secretary-General⁹ relating to the implementation of resolution 53/77 W,

1. **Underlines once again** the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control;

2. **Calls once again upon** all States immediately to fulfil that obligation by commencing multilateral negotiations in 2000 leading to an early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination;

3. **Requests** all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they have taken on the implementation of the present resolution and nuclear disarmament, and requests the Secretary-General to apprise the General Assembly of that information at its fifty-fifth session;

4. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*". □

S. Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/70 M of 12 December 1995, 51/45 E of 10 December 1996, 52/38 E of 9 December 1997 and 53/77 J of 4 December 1998,

Emphasizing the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

Recognizing that it is necessary to take duly into account the agreements adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as prior relevant agreements, in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms limitation,

Mindful of the detrimental environmental effects of the use of nuclear weapons,

1. **Reaffirms** that international disarmament forums should take fully into account

* Report: A/54/563.

the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation and that all States, through their actions, should fully contribute to ensuring compliance with the aforementioned norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties;

2. **Calls upon** States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures so as to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress in the framework of international security, disarmament and other related spheres, without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development;

3. **Welcomes** the information provided by Member States on the implementation of the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution;¹

4. **Invites** all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General information on the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report containing this information to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

5. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control". □

¹ A/54/163 and Add.1.

T. Relationship between disarmament and development*

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly¹ concerning the relationship between disarmament and development,

Recalling also the adoption on 11 September 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,²

Recalling further its resolutions 49/75 J of 15 December 1994, 50/70 G of 12 December 1995, 51/45 D of 10 December 1996, 52/38 D of 9 December 1997 and 53/77 K of 4 December 1998,

* Report: A/54/563.

¹ Resolution S-10/2.

² United Nations publication, Sales No.E.87.IX.8.

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998;³

Taking note of the deliberations during the symposium on disarmament and development held at Headquarters on 20 July 1999,⁴

Stressing the growing importance of the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development in current international relations,

1. **Acknowledges** the report of the Secretary-General,⁵ and welcomes the establishment, as a first step by the Secretary-General, of the Steering Group on Disarmament and Development with the purpose of determining the short, medium and long-term priorities, according to the mandate set out in the action programme adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development;⁶

2. **Urges** the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever widening gap between developed and developing countries;

3. **Invites** all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General, by 15 April 2000, their views and proposals for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, as well as any other views and proposals with a view to achieving the goals of the action programme, within the framework of current international relations;

4. **Requests** the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference;

5. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

6. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development". □

³ A/53/667-S/1999/1071, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

⁴ See A/54/254, paras. 11 and 12.

⁵ A/54/254.

⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No.E.87.IX.8, para. 35 (ix).

54/65

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization*

The General Assembly,

Noting that on 10 September 1996, the General Assembly, by its resolution 50/245, adopted the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,

Noting that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was opened for signature at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 September 1996,

Noting also that on 19 November 1996, the Meeting of States Signatories to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty established the Preparatory Commission to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (Preparatory Commission), which has the status of an international organization, for the purpose of carrying out the necessary preparations for the effective implementation of the Treaty,

Reaffirming the decision on an agreement to regulate the relationship between the Preparatory Commission and the United Nations, adopted by the Preparatory Commission on 22 April 1999,

1. **Invites** the Secretary-General to take the appropriate steps to conclude with the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission an agreement to regulate the relationship between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission, to be submitted to the General Assembly for its approval. □

* L.48.

54/66

Effects of atomic radiation*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 53/44 of 3 December 1998, in which, *inter alia*, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation,¹

* Report: A/54/573.

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 46 (A/54/46)*.

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which mankind and the environment are exposed,

Noting the views expressed by Member States at its fifty-fourth session with regard to the work of the Scientific Committee,

Conscious of the continuing need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyze its effects on mankind and the environment,

1. **Commends** the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making in the course of the past 44 years, since its inception, to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of atomic radiation, and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

2. **Reaffirms** the decision to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee, including the present reporting arrangements;

3. **Requests** the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important activities to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources;

4. **Endorses** the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly, including publication of its next comprehensive report in 2000;

5. **Requests** the Scientific Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

6. **Requests** the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

7. **Expresses its appreciation** for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their cooperation in this field;

8. **Welcomes**, in this context, the readiness of Member States to provide the Scientific Committee with relevant information on the effects of atomic radiation in affected areas, and invites the Scientific Committee to analyse and give due

consideration to such information, particularly in the light of its own findings;

9. **Invites** Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly. □

54/67

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/122 of 13 December 1996 and 53/45 of 3 December 1998,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of mankind in promoting the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for 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,

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 promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Considering that space debris is an issue of concern to all nations,

Noting the progress achieved in the further development of peaceful space exploration and applications as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, which contributes to international cooperation, and the importance of further international cooperation in this field,

Taking note with satisfaction of the successful conclusion of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held at Vienna from 19–

* Report A/54/574.

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,¹

Taking into account the recommendations contained in the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development", adopted by UNISPACE III,²

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-second session,³

1. **Endorses** the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-second session;⁴

2. **Invites** States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space⁵ to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;

3. **Notes** that, at its thirty-eighth session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in its working groups, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/45;⁶

4. **Welcomes** the new approach taken by the Committee in composing the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee,⁷ and endorses the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-ninth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries:

(a) Consider the following as regular agenda items:

(i) General exchange of views;

(ii) Status of the international treaties governing the uses of outer space;

(iii) Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law;

(iv) Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the char-

¹ See A/CONF.184/6.

² *Ibid.*, chap. I, resolution 1.

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/54/20)*.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 2222 (XXI), annex); Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 2345 (XXII), annex); Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex); Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex); and Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 34/68, annex).

⁶ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/54/20)*, chap. II.C.

⁷ *Ibid.*, annex I, sect. B.

acter 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;

(b) Continue its consideration of review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space,⁸ as a single issue and item for discussion;

(c) Consider the following in accordance with the work plans adopted by the Committee;⁹

(i) Review of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space;

(ii) Review of the concept of the "launching State";

5. **Notes** that the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session will submit its proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee at its fortieth session, in 2001;

6. **Notes also** that, in the context of paragraph 4 (a) (iv) above, the Legal Subcommittee will reconvene its working group to consider the item;

7. **Endorses** the recommendation of the Committee¹⁰ that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-ninth session, suspend consideration in its Working Group of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space pending the results of the work in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, without prejudice to the possibility of reconvening its Working Group on that item if, in the opinion of the Legal Subcommittee, sufficient progress has been made in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session, to warrant the reconvening of the Working Group;

8. **Also endorses** the recommendations and agreements concerning the organization of work in the Legal Subcommittee;¹¹

9. **Takes note** of the agreement reached by the Committee at its fortieth session on the composition of the bureaux 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,¹² which were endorsed by the General Assembly in para-

graph 11 of its resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, and notes that consultations among delegations and regional groups will be held concerning the members of the bureaux for the second term with a view to reaching consensus on the matter by the thirty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee;

10. **Agrees** that the Committee should elect its officers at the beginning of its forty-third session, in accordance with consensus agreement to be reached among the members of the Committee on the members of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the second term, as an exceptional arrangement for that session of the Committee;

11. **Notes** that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its thirty-sixth session, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/45;¹³

12. **Notes with satisfaction** that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session continued to consider on a priority basis the agenda item on space debris and that the Subcommittee concluded its work according to the multi-year work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-second session;¹⁴

13. **Takes note with satisfaction** of the technical report on space debris¹⁵ submitted by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to the Committee, and agrees that the technical report should be widely distributed;

14. **Agrees** that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should assess the effectiveness of existing space debris mitigation practices and the extent to which they were being implemented and that efforts to model and characterize the debris environment should continue;

15. **Welcomes** the new approach taken by the Committee in composing the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee,¹⁶ and endorses the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-seventh session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries:

(a) Consider the following items:

(i) General exchange of views and introduction to reports submitted on national activities;

(ii) The United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system following (UNISPACE III);

(iii) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment;

(b) Consider the item on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session;¹⁷

(c) Consider the following single issues and items for discussion:

(i) International cooperation in human space flight;

(ii) Presentations on new launch systems and ventures;

(iii) Space debris, on a priority basis;

(iv) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geo-stationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, *inter alia*, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries;

16. **Notes** that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session will submit its proposal to the Committee for a draft provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee, in 2001;

17. **Also notes** that the theme fixed for special attention at the thirty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee will be "Space commercialization: an era of new opportunities" and that the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, in liaison with Member States, will be invited to arrange a symposium on that theme, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of that session of the Subcommittee;

18. **Agrees** that, in the context of paragraphs 15 (a) (ii) and 16 above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole to consider the future work of the Subcommittee in the light of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;

19. **Also agrees** that, in the context of paragraph 15 (b) above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space;

20. **Endorses** the recommendation of the Committee¹⁸ that, in the context of

⁸ See resolution 47/68.

⁹ See A/AC.105/674, annex II.B, for the work plan for item (i) and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/54/20)*, chap. II.C., para. 114, for the work plan for item (ii).

¹⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/54/20)*, para. 90.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, paras. 109-117.

¹² *Ibid.*, *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/52/20)*, annex I.

¹³ *Ibid.*, *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/54/20)*, chap. II.B.

¹⁴ A/AC.105/605, para. 83.

¹⁵ A/AC.105/720.

¹⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/54/20)*, annex I, sect. A.

¹⁷ See A/AC.105/697, annex III, appendix.

¹⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly*,

paragraph 15 (c) (iii) above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session should review international application of the standards of the International Telecommunication Union and recommendations of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee concerning the disposal of satellites in geosynchronous orbit at the end of their useful life;

21. **Also endorses** the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2000, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications;¹⁹

22. **Notes with satisfaction** that, in accordance with paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 50/27 of 6 December 1995, the African Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education (in French and in English) were inaugurated in Morocco and Nigeria, respectively, that the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific continued its education programme in 1999 and that significant progress has been achieved in furthering the goals of the Network of Space Science and Technology Education and Research Institutions of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and establishing regional centres for space science and technology education in the other regions;

23. **Recommends** that Member States concerned in Asia and the Pacific hold further consultations, with the assistance of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, with a view to making the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific grow into a network of nodes;

24. **Also recommends** that more attention be paid to all aspects related to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment;

25. **Considers** that it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris; also considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agrees that international cooperation is needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to

minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions;

26. **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;

27. **Emphasizes** the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, in particular in developing countries, and mitigation of the consequences of natural disasters;

28. **Takes note** of the interest of some developing countries, as well as other countries, in becoming members of the Committee, and requests the continued examination of the subject of increasing the number of members of the Committee;

29. **Requests** the Committee to resume its consideration, at its forty-third session, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

30. **Also requests** the Committee to resume its consideration, at its forty-third session, of the item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status";

31. **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;

32. **Requests** the Committee to continue its work, in accordance with the present resolution, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future. □

54/68

Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/123 of 13 December 1996, 52/56 of 10 December 1997 and 53/45 of 3 December 1998 concerning the preparations and convening of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of

Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held at Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space,

Expressing its satisfaction with the successful preparation of UNISPACE III through the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as the Preparatory Committee, and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as the Advisory Committee, as well as the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat as the executive secretariat, and commending their efforts to organize UNISPACE III within existing resources,

Recognizing the contributions of the Technical Forum and the Space Generation Forum to UNISPACE III,

Having considered the report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)¹ and the recommendations contained in the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development",²

Stressing the importance of promoting effective means of using space technology to assist in the solution of problems of regional or global significance and of strengthening the capabilities of Member States, in particular developing countries, to use the applications of space research for economic, social and cultural development,

Conscious of the need to expedite the use of space applications by Member States to promote sustainable development and to increase the awareness of the general public with regard to the benefits of space technology,

Desiring to enhance the opportunities for education, training and technical assistance in space science and technology and their applications aimed at the development of indigenous capabilities in all States,

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and people of Austria for the hospitality extended to the participants of UNISPACE III and for the facilities placed at their disposal,

1. **Takes note with satisfaction** of the report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;³

2. **Endorses** the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development";⁴

Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/54/20), annex I, sect. A.

¹⁹ See A/AC.105/715, sect. II.

* Report A/54/574.

¹ A/CONF.184/6.

² *Ibid.*, chap. I, resolution 1.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

3. **Urges** Governments, organs, organizations and programmes within the United Nations system as well as inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and industries conducting space-related activities to take the necessary action for the effective implementation of the Vienna Declaration;

4. **Calls upon** all concerned to implement the recommendations made by UNISPACE III as reflected in its report;⁵

5. **Requests** all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to review and, where necessary, adjust their programmes and activities in line with the recommendations of UNISPACE III and to take appropriate measures to ensure their full and effective implementation, taking into account the needs of developing countries, in particular by further enhancing the coordination of their space-related activities through the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities;

6. **Invites** all relevant governing bodies of the organizations within the United Nations system responsible for space-related activities to establish an *ad hoc* inter-governmental advisory group to review inter-agency coordination of space-related activities with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities;

7. **Declares** "World Space Week" from 4–10 October to celebrate each year at the international level the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition, bearing in mind that 4 October 1957 was the date of the launch into outer space of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik I, thus opening the way for space exploration, and that 10 October 1967 was the date of the entry into force 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;⁶

8. **Requests** the Secretary-General to modify the terms of reference of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/90 of 10 December 1982 on the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to include implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;

9. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to invite all States to contribute voluntarily to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and, in his letter of invitation, to identify priority project proposals, on the ba-

sis of recommendations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and requests the Office for Outer Space Affairs to provide the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with a report listing those States which have responded to his invitation;

10. **Agrees** that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its secretariat should identify new and innovative funding sources for implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III in order to supplement the resources to be provided through the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications;

11. **Requests** the Secretary-General to recommend measures to ensure that the Office for Outer Space Affairs is provided with adequate resources to implement the following actions based on the recommendations of UNISPACE III:

(a) Providing the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with necessary analytical documents, both on the substance and on the organization of work, to facilitate their consideration of new items called for in the agenda structures adopted by the Committee at its forty-second session;⁷

(b) Organizing, in order to strengthen the partnership of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee with industry, a one-day symposium during the thirty-seventh session of the Subcommittee to provide Member States with updated information on commercially available products, services and ongoing activities of space-related industry;

(c) Identifying and promoting the use of appropriate space technologies to meet the needs of programmes and organizations within the United Nations system in carrying out activities that have not yet benefited from the use of space technology to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency;

(d) Strengthening the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications to include the following:⁸

(i) Facilitating and supporting the development and implementation of space-related projects that address the operational needs of Member States;

(ii) Providing support to the regional centres for space science and technology education affiliated with the United Nations, including the Network of Space Sci-

ence and Technology Education and Research Institutions of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe;

(iii) Reorienting the long-term fellowship programme;

(iv) Organizing workshops and conferences on advanced space applications and new system developments for programme managers and leaders of space technology development and applications activities;

(v) Organizing medium-term courses on remote-sensing education for university educators and on telecommunications and tele-health for professionals;

(vi) Providing technical advisory services to Member States, on request, on different aspects of space science and technology and related applications;

(vii) Promoting cooperation in space applications projects between government establishments, universities and research institutions and private industry;

(viii) Organizing an annual public forum to inform the general public of past, ongoing and planned space activities and the future direction of such activities;

(ix) Promoting activities for youth, so as to encourage interest among students, young scientists and engineers;

(x) Promoting cooperation in the development of educational programmes in space science and technology for primary and secondary school curricula;

(xi) Establishing a programme of visits by astronauts, cosmonauts and other space scientists and engineers to increase knowledge about space-related activities, in particular among young people;

(xii) Promoting the participation of scientists from developing countries in space science and planetary exploration;

(xiii) Initiating programmes to promote the use of satellite communications and Earth observation data for disaster management and to provide opportunities for professionals to put into practice the knowledge that they have acquired through training courses;

12. **Calls upon** the Secretary-General to ensure the availability of the report of UNISPACE III, including its proceedings, and to disseminate as widely as possible the results of UNISPACE III, in particular the Vienna Declaration and the summary of the background and recommendations of UNISPACE III;

13. **Notes** that, in response to a request made by the Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE III at its 1999 session, the executive secretariat has prepared for submission to the General Assembly a document on organizational matters relating to UNISPACE III, with the aim of providing other entities in the United Nations system with guidelines on using ex-

⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/54/20), annex I.*

⁸ See A/CONF.184/6, chap. II, para. 409 (d) (i)-(xii).

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

isting resources to organize a conference on global issues;

14. **Agrees** that the document prepared by the executive secretariat on organizational matters relating to UNISPACE III should be issued as a report to the General Assembly during its fifty-fourth session;

15. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;

16. **Decides** to review and appraise, at its fifty-ninth session, the implementation of the outcome of UNISPACE III and to consider further actions and initiatives, and, in this context, requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session recommendations for consideration by the Assembly on the format, scope and organizational aspects of that review by the Assembly. □

54/111

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-first session*

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-first session,¹

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,²

Emphasizing also the role of the International Law Commission in the fulfilment of the objectives of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Recognizing the desirability of referring legal and drafting questions to the Sixth Committee, including topics that might be submitted to the International Law Commission for closer examination, and of enabling the Sixth Committee and the Commission further to enhance their contribution to the progressive development of international law and its codification,

Recalling the need to keep under review those topics of international law which, given their new or renewed interest for the international community, may be suitable for the progressive development and codification of international law and may therefore be included in the future programme of work of the International Law Commission,

Welcoming the holding of the International Law Seminar, and noting with appreciation the voluntary contributions made to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Law Seminar,

Stressing the usefulness of structuring the debate on the report of the International Law Commission in the Sixth Committee in such a manner that conditions are provided for concentrated attention to each of the main topics dealt with in the report,

Wishing to enhance further the interaction between the Sixth Committee as a body of governmental representatives and the International Law Commission as a body of independent legal experts, with a view to improving the dialogue between the two organs,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-first session;³

2. **Expresses its appreciation** to the International Law Commission for the work accomplished at its fifty-first session, in particular with respect to the topic "Jurisdictional immunities of States and their property" and the completion of the second reading of the draft articles on nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States, and notes that the Commission has completed its work on the topic "Nationality in relation to the succession of States";

3. **Draws the attention** of Governments to the importance for the International Law Commission of having their views on the various aspects involved in the topics on the agenda of the Commission, in particular on all the specific issues identified in chapter III of its report;

4. **Reiterates its invitation** to Governments to submit comments and observations in writing by 1 January 2000 on the draft articles on international liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law (prevention of transboundary damage from hazardous activities), and invites them, within the context of the preceding paragraph, to respond in writing by 1 March 2000 to the questionnaire on unilateral acts of States circulated by the Secretariat

to all Governments on 30 September 1999;

5. **Also reiterates its invitation** to Governments to submit the most relevant national legislation, decisions of domestic courts and State practice relevant to diplomatic protection in order to assist the International Law Commission in its future work on the topic "Diplomatic protection";

6. **Recommends** that, taking into account the comments and observations of Governments, whether in writing or expressed orally in debates in the General Assembly, the International Law Commission should continue its work on the topics in its current programme;

7. **Takes note** of paragraph 608 of the report of the Commission with regard to the procedure to be followed with respect to the topic "International liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law", and requests the Commission to resume consideration of the liability aspects of the topic as soon as the second reading of the draft articles on prevention is finalized, taking into account developments in international law and comments by Governments;

8. **Also takes note** of the consideration by the International Law Commission of its long-term programme of work,⁴ and encourages the Commission to proceed with the selection of new topics for its next quinquennium corresponding to the wishes and preoccupations of States and to present possible outlines for new topics and information related thereto in order to facilitate a decision thereon by the General Assembly;

9. **Welcomes with appreciation** the steps that have been taken by the International Law Commission in relation to its internal matters to enhance its efficiency and productivity, and invites the Commission to continue taking such measures, taking into consideration the discussion held by the General Assembly;

10. **Decides**, without prejudice to any future decision, that the next session of the Commission will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 1 May to 9 June and from 10 July to 18 August 2000;

11. **Requests** the International Law Commission to implement arrangements in accordance with paragraph 639 of its report;

12. **Stresses** the desirability of enhancing dialogue between the International Law Commission and the Sixth Committee, and in this context takes note with

* Report A/54/610.

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 10 and corrigenda (A/54/10 and Corr. 1 and 2)*

² Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 10 and corrigenda (A/54/10 and Corr. 1 and 2)*

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 10 and corrigenda (A/54/10 and Corr. 1 and 2)*, chap. X, sect. A.2.

appreciation of the comments made by the Commission in paragraphs 612 to 617 of its report;

13. **Requests** the International Law Commission to continue to pay special attention to indicating in its annual report, for each topic, any specific issues on which expressions of views by 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;

14. **Also requests** the International Law Commission to continue the implementation of article 16, 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 in that regard takes note with appreciation of comments made by the Commission in paragraphs 618 to 632 of its report;

15. **Notes** that consulting with national organizations and individual experts concerned with international law may assist Governments in considering whether to make comments and observations on drafts submitted by the International Law Commission and in formulating their comments and observations;

16. **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;

17. **Takes note** of the inclusion of information about the work of the International Law Commission in its Web site;⁵

18. **Expresses the hope** that the International Law Seminar will continue to be held in connection with the sessions of the International Law Commission and that an increasing number of participants, in particular from developing countries, will be given the opportunity to attend those seminars, and appeals to States to make urgently needed voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

19. **Requests** the Secretary-General to provide the International Law Seminar with adequate services, including interpretation, as required, and encourages him to continue considering ways to improve the structure and content of the Seminar;

20. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to forward to the International Law Commission, for its attention, the records of the debate on the report of the Commission at the fifty-fourth session 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;

21. **Requests** the Secretariat to circulate to States, as soon as possible after the conclusion of the Commission's session, chapter II of its report containing a summary of the work of that session and the draft articles adopted on either first or second reading by the Commission;

22. **Recommends** that the debate on the report of the International Law Commission at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly commence on 23 October 2000. □

54/150

International Decade of the World's Indigenous People*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/129 of 9 December 1998 and previous resolutions on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People,

Recalling also that the goal of the Decade is to strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health and that the theme of the Decade is "Indigenous people: partnership in action",

Recognizing the importance of consultation and cooperation with indigenous people in planning and implementing the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People,¹ the need for adequate financial support from the international community, including support from within the United Nations system, and the need for adequate coordination and communication channels,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People;²

2. **Affirms** its conviction of the value and diversity of the cultures and forms of social organization of indigenous people and its conviction that the development of indigenous people within their countries will contribute to the socio-economic, cultural and environmental advancement of all the countries of the world;

3. **Emphasizes** the importance of strengthening the human and institutional capacity of indigenous people to develop their own solutions to their problems and, in this context, welcomes the holding of the Workshop on Higher Education and Indigenous Peoples at San José, Costa Rica, from 28 June to 2 July 1999, and requests the Commission on Human Rights to consider the recommendations of the Workshop;³

4. **Takes note** of the mid-term report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in her capacity as coordinator of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People,⁴ reviewing the implementation of the programme of activities of the Decade, and of the information contained therein about the activities of the United Nations system, including specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, relating to indigenous people, and urges all parties concerned to intensify their efforts to achieve the goals of the Decade;

5. **Requests** the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as coordinator of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People:

(a) To continue to promote the objectives of the Decade, taking into account, in the fulfilment of her functions, the special concerns of indigenous people;

(b) To give due regard to the dissemination, from within existing resources and voluntary contributions, of information on the situation, cultures, languages, rights and aspirations of indigenous people and, in that context, to consider the possibility of organizing projects, special events, exhibitions and other activities addressed to the public, in particular to young people;

(c) To submit, through the Secretary-General, an annual report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the programme of activities of the Decade;

6. **Reaffirms** the adoption of a declaration on the rights of indigenous people as a major objective of the Decade, and underlines the importance of effective participation by indigenous representatives in the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights established pursuant to Commission resolution 1995/32 of 3 March 1995;⁵

7. **Also reaffirms**, among the objectives of the Decade listed in the programme of activities, the consideration of the establishment of a permanent forum

³ See E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1999/5, para. 62.

⁴ E/CN.4/1999/81.

⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr. 1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.*

⁵ The Internet address of the International Law Commission is www.un.org/law/ilc/index.htm.

* Report A/54/602.

¹ Resolution 50/157, annex.

² A/54/487 and Add. 1.

for indigenous people in the United Nations system;

8. **Urges** Governments to participate actively in the open-ended inter-sessional *ad hoc* working group that the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1999/52 of 27 April 1999⁶ decided to re-establish from within existing overall United Nations resources, which is to meet for eight working days prior to the fifty-sixth session of the Commission to submit, with a view to completing its task, one or more concrete proposals on the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system;

9. **Decides** that the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/131 of 13 December 1985 and modified by Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/32 and Assembly resolutions 50/156 of 21 De-

11. **Encourages** Governments to support the Decade by:

(a) Preparing relevant programmes, plans and reports in relation to the Decade, in consultation with indigenous people;

(b) Seeking means, in consultation with indigenous people, of giving indigenous people greater responsibility for their own affairs and an effective voice in decisions on matters that affect them;

(c) Establishing national committees or other mechanisms involving indigenous people to ensure that the objectives and activities of the Decade are planned and implemented on the basis of full partnership with indigenous people;

(d) Contributing to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People;

(e) Contributing, together with other donors, to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations in order to as-

the Caribbean, in support of the goals of the Decade;

(g) Identifying resources for activities designed to implement the goals of the Decade, in cooperation with indigenous people and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

12. **Welcomes** the offer of the Government of Spain to host at Seville in February 2000 the first meeting of the *ad hoc* open-ended inter-sessional working group on article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁷ regarding the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, and encourages Governments to include representatives of indigenous and local communities in their delegations to the meeting;

13. **Invites** United Nations financial and developmental institutions, operational programmes and the specialized agencies, as well as other regional and international organizations, in accordance with the existing procedures of their governing bodies:

(a) To give increased priority and resources to improving the conditions of indigenous people, with particular emphasis on the needs of those people in developing countries, including through the preparation of specific programmes of action for the implementation of the goals of the Decade, within their areas of competence;

(b) To launch special projects, through appropriate channels and in cooperation with indigenous people, to strengthen their community-level initiatives and to facilitate the exchange of information and expertise among indigenous people and other relevant experts;

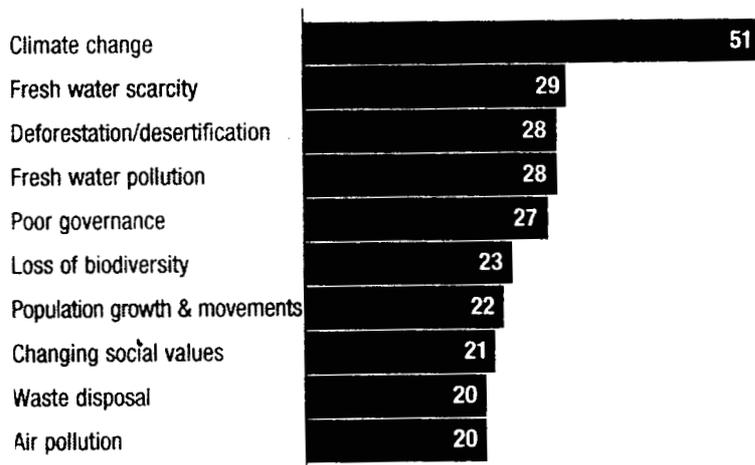
(c) To designate focal points for the coordination of activities related to the Decade with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; and commends those institutions, programmes, agencies and regional and international organizations that have already done so;

14. **Recommends** that the Secretary-General ensure coordinated follow-up to the recommendations concerning indigenous people of relevant United Nations conferences, namely, the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14–25 June 1993, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3–14 June 1992, the International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo from 5–13 September

⁷ See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

Top environmental concerns

% of respondents



Source: UN Environment Programme

Courtesy: Financial Times

ember 1995 and 53/130 of 9 December 1998, should also be used to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the open-ended inter-sessional *ad hoc* working group of the Commission on Human Rights re-established according to Commission resolution 1999/52;

10. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations for the work it has accomplished;

assist indigenous representatives in participating in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of the Commission on Human Rights, the open-ended inter-sessional working group charged with developing a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people and the re-established open-ended inter-sessional *ad hoc* working group on the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system;

(f) Considering contributing, as appropriate, to the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and

⁶ *Ibid.*, 1999, Supplement No. 3 (E/1999/23), chap. II, sect. A.

1994, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4–15 September 1995, the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6–12 March 1995, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 3–14 June 1996, and the World Food Summit, held at Rome from 13–17 November 1996, and other relevant international conferences;

15. **Requests** the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit, through the Secretary-General, a report on the implementation of the programme of activities of the Decade to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

16. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People". □

54/175

The right to development*

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and expressing in particular the determination to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom as well as to employ international mechanisms for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Recalling its previous resolutions and those of the Commission on Human Rights relating to the right to development, including its resolution 53/155 of 9 December 1998 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/79 of 28 April 1999,¹

Also recalling the Declaration on the Right to Development,² and reaffirming the importance of its full implementation,

Reaffirming that the right to development, as established in the Declaration on the Right to Development, is universal and inalienable and re-emphasizing that its promotion, protection and realization are an integral part of the promotion and protection of all human rights,

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 national and international levels,

Emphasizing the fact that the realization of the right to development requires effective and efficient development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level,

Noting that sanctions often have a serious negative impact on the development capacity and activity of target countries, as well as third States, undermining their full realization of the right to development,

Recognizing that countries interact with the global economy from vastly different levels of development, and realizing that globalization affects all countries differently and makes them more susceptible to external developments, positive and negative, *inter alia*, in the field of human rights, in particular in the realization of the right to development,

Stressing the need for coordination and cooperation throughout the United Nations system for a more effective promotion and realization of the right to development,

Emphasizing that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has an important role to play in the promotion, protection and realization of the right to development, including through enhanced cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system for this purpose,

Affirming that developed countries have a major responsibility in the context of growing interdependence to create and sustain a global economic environment that is favourable to accelerated and sustainable development,

Emphasizing that measures should be taken to ensure that human rights are not exploited as a means of conditionality for loans, aid or trade, which then results unduly in the imposition of particular policies on recipient countries, thereby negatively affecting the full enjoyment of the right to development by the peoples of such countries,

Recognizing the importance of undertaking appropriate economic policies and creating a favourable and conducive environment for the enhancement of the realization of the right to development at national and international levels,

Emphasizing the importance of strengthening good governance through the building of more effective and accountable institutions for promoting sustained growth and enabling all people to benefit equally from development,

Expressing its concern that the Declaration on the Right to Development is

insufficiently disseminated and should be taken into account, as appropriate, in bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes, national development strategies and policies and activities of international organizations,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the right to development,³ prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/155,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Secretary-General;⁴

2. **Reaffirms** the importance of the right to development for every human person and all people in all countries, in particular the developing countries, as an integral part of their fundamental human rights, as well as the potential contribution that its realization could make to the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. **Also 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) The existence of widespread poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of all human rights and renders democracy and popular participation fragile;

(b) For peace and stability to endure, national and international action and cooperation are required to promote a better life for all in larger freedom, a critical element of which is the eradication of poverty;

(c) The full realization of the right to development must be addressed within a global context through a constructive, dialogue-based approach, with objectivity, respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, impartiality, non-selectivity and transparency as the guiding principles, taking into account the political, historical, social, religious and cultural characteristics of each country;

(d) Effective popular participation is an essential component of successful and sustainable development;

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

4. **Expresses deep concern** that the gap between the developed and developing countries remains unacceptably wide and that developing countries continue to face difficulties in participating in the globalization process, and may risk being marginalized and effectively excluded from its benefits;

* Report: A/54/605/Add.2.

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 3 (E/1999/23)*, chap. II, sect. A.

² Resolution 41/128, annex.

³ A/54/319.

⁴ *Ibid.*

5. **Notes with concern** that the realization of the right to development of many developing countries has been negatively affected as a result of severe economic and financial crises in many regions of the world, and recognizes that the international trade and financial conditions that caused the crises continue to persist;

6. **Calls upon** Member States to take, individually and collectively, all relevant measures to prevent the marginalization of the weak or vulnerable economies of developing countries and of countries with economies in transition and to enable them to participate fully in globalization and liberalization with a view to their full integration into the world economy;

7. **Calls upon** States to refrain from taking any unilateral measures that are not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations and that create obstacles to trade relations among States and impede the full realization of all human rights, including the right to development;

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

9. **Reaffirms** that international cooperation is a necessity deriving from the recognized mutual interest of all countries 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 fulfil their obligations to promote and protect all human rights;

10. **Calls upon** the international community to address the deepening technological, financial and productive gaps between the developed and some developing countries, and among developing countries themselves, as well as the widening inequalities between the rich and the poor;

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. **Reaffirms** that, in the full realization of the right to development, *inter alia*:

(a) The rights to food and clean water are fundamental human rights and their promotion constitutes a moral imperative for both national Governments and the international community;

(b) The right to shelter is a basic human right and, in this regard, emphasizes the urgent need for national Governments and the international community to develop urgently, where necessary, and to implement national and international strategies to provide this right;

(c) Health is essential for sustainable development, and calls upon all Governments to take reasonable legislative and other measures within their available resources to achieve the progressive realization of the right to health-care services, and urges the international community to support the efforts of Governments in this regard;

(d) Education is also an essential factor for the political, social, cultural and economic development of all people, and recognizes that science and technology are important for ensuring growing levels of knowledge and must be put to use in the service of education;

13. **Recommends** proper consideration of the humanitarian effects of sanctions, in particular on women and children, which undermine and affect the right to development, with a view to minimizing those effects;

14. **Stresses** the need for the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to the right to development and urges all States to promote further the right to development, as a vital element in a balanced human rights programme;

15. **Welcomes** the high priority assigned by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to activities relating to the right to development, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue implementing Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/72 of 22 April 1998;⁵

16. **Invites** the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to follow and review progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development and to submit annual reports to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights and to provide interim reports to the open-ended working group and the independent expert on the right to development containing details on:

(a) The activities of her Office relating to the implementation of the right to development, as contained in her mandate;

(b) The implementation of resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights with regard to the right to development;

(c) The coordination among the relevant

entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, in the implementation of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights in this regard;

17. **Notes** the efforts undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within its mandate, with relevant entities of the United Nations system to promote the realization of the right to development, and stresses the need for the Office to keep Governments fully informed of and involve them in those initiatives, as appropriate;

18. **Calls upon** Member States and the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure that the open-ended working group on the right to development convenes its first session, as a matter of urgency, no later than 17 December 1999;

19. **Urges** Member States, the Secretary-General and the United Nations system, in particular the Office of the High Commissioner, to support fully the follow-up mechanism established for the implementation of the right to development;

20. **Reaffirms** the need for the Office of the High Commissioner to take appropriate measures aimed at promoting universal public awareness of the right to development through, *inter alia*, the dissemination of the Declaration on the Right to Development;

21. **Invites** the open-ended working group, *inter alia*, to consider the question of elaborating a convention on the right to development;

22. **Calls upon** the independent expert on the right to development to submit comprehensive reports to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session and the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session on, *inter alia*, the effects of poverty, structural adjustment, globalization, financial and trade liberalization and deregulation on the prospects of enjoyment of the right to development in developing countries;

23. **Invites** the open-ended working group to take note of the deliberations on the right to development held during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly;

24. **Takes note** of the report of the independent expert on the right to development,⁶ and encourages closer coordination with studies undertaken by other relevant experts established under the auspices of the Commission on Human Rights;

25. **Recognizes** the vital role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of the right to development, and, in this regard, encourages Member

⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3 (E/1998/23)*, chap. II, sect. A.

⁶ E/CN.4/1999/WG.18/2.

States and the United Nations system to foster partnerships and strengthen cooperation at the national level with civil society, as appropriate;

26. **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 relating to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, as well as obstacles identified in the realization of the right to development;

27. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session a comprehensive report on the right to development, including obstacles identified in the realization of that right;

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

54/195

Observer status for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in the General Assembly*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 49/426 of 9 December 1994,

Considering the importance of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources,

Considering also the need, frequently noted by the United Nations, to promote and support every effort towards the conservation of nature,

Taking into account that the main objective of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources is to encourage and assist the international community in conserving the integrity and diversity of nature,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources,

1. **Decides** to invite the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. **Decides** also that, in the future, any request by an organization for grant of

observer status in the General Assembly will be considered in plenary session after the consideration of the issue by the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly;

3. **Requests** the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to bring to the attention of all the States Members of the General Committee and General Assembly the criteria and procedures laid down by the General Assembly whenever a request is made by an organization seeking observer status in the General Assembly;

4. **Requests** the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution. □

54/214

Conservation and sustainable development of Central African forest ecosystems*

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3–14 June 1992, General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, on the report of the Conference, and resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, establishing the institutional arrangements for the follow-up to the Conference,

Recalling also its resolution 53/188 of 15 December 1998 on the 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,

Recalling further the work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests within the context of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

Noting with appreciation the Summit of Central African Heads of State on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests, held at Yaound, from 12–17 March 1999,

Mindful of the need for the conservation and sustainable management of the forest ecosystems of Central Africa, which constitute an important natural asset for present and future generations,

Convinced that the sustainable management of forest resources can contribute significantly to the economic, social and cultural development of the States that border on forests,

Convinced also of the important role of subregional and international cooperation in the management of forest ecosys-

tems and of combating desertification, in keeping with the international commitments entered into by the international community,

Considering that a synergy of international and national efforts is essential in order to achieve sustainable development,

1. **Recognizes** the importance of the forests of the Central African subregion, the natural characteristics of which play an essential role in the equilibrium of the biosphere of the entire planet;

2. **Welcomes** the Declaration adopted by the Summit of Central African Heads of State on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests, held at Yaound, from 12–17 March 1999,¹ encourages the countries of Central Africa to implement to the fullest extent possible



Courtesy: Blickpunkt Bundestag

the undertakings set out in the Declaration, and recognizes the efforts made by those countries in this respect, in particular with regard to policy coherence and coordination, with a view to the sustainable management and conservation of the forest ecosystems of the Central African subregion;

3. **Invites** the international community to support the countries of Central Africa in these efforts, including through the provision of financial and technical assistance on a regional basis;

4. **Encourages** the international community, including the Global Environment Facility and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, when considering ways and means of achieving the conservation and sustainable management of all types of forests, to take into account, *inter alia*, the forests of the Central African subregion;

5. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-

* L.7/Rev.2.

* Report A/54/588/Add.7.

¹ A/C.2/54/5, annex.

fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, within the context of the reporting emanating from the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and taking into account other reporting requests under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development". □

54/215 World Solar Programme 1996-2005*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/7 of 16 October 1998, by which it, *inter alia*, endorsed the World Solar Programme 1996–2005 as a contribution to the overall sustainable development agenda and invited all States Members of the United Nations to contribute to its successful implementation,

Recalling also resolution 29 C/14 concerning the World Solar Programme 1996–2005, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in November 1997,¹

Reaffirming that the convening at Harare on 16 and 17 September 1996 of the World Solar Summit, at which the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development² was adopted and the preparation of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005³ approved, was a step in the pursuance of the implementation of Agenda 21,⁴ which is a multi-faceted and, at the same time, fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development,

Recognizing that mutually supportive efforts at national and international levels are imperative in the pursuit of sustainable development, which includes, *inter alia*, the provision of financial resources and the transfer of technology for the application of cost-effective energy systems and wider use of environment-friendly, renewable energies,

Acknowledging the important role of the General Assembly in promoting the World Solar Programme 1996–2005,

Acknowledging also the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development

and the Economic and Social Council as forums for the discussion of new and renewable sources of energy and sustainable development,

Expressing its appreciation of the efforts of the Secretary-General in bringing the World Solar Programme 1996–2005 to the attention of relevant sources of funding and technical assistance,

Noting the establishment of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Energy with a view to ensuring the coordination of the activities of all relevant organizations of the United Nations system in the preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2001, and to contributing to sustainable development, taking into account the recommendations of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005,

Noting that the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996–2005 constitutes one of the major programmes of universal value of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005,

Calling for further action to ensure that the World Solar Programme 1996–2005⁵ is fully integrated into and brought into the mainstream of the efforts of the United Nations system towards attaining the objective of sustainable development,

Emphasizing that the achievement of more substantive results in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005, as part of the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, will require the more active and collaborative involvement of all concerned parties, including Governments, multilateral funding agencies and relevant parts of the United Nations system,

1. **Takes note with appreciation** of the report of the Secretary-General on the World Solar Programme 1996–2005,⁶ including measures taken by the various entities of the United Nations system for the implementation of the Programme;

2. **Notes with appreciation** the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in promoting, within its mandate, the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005, in particular its education and training programmes in the field of new and renewable sources of energy, and, in this context, also notes with appreciation the initiative undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of inviting the competent organs and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005;

3. **Notes** the role that the World Solar Commission has so far played in the mobilization of international support and assistance for the implementation of many of the national high-priority projects on renewable sources of energy included in the World Solar Programme 1996–2005, many of which are being executed with national funding;

4. **Commends highly** the efforts of many Member States in taking concrete national actions, including legislative measures, that have resulted in the wider use of renewable sources of energy in their countries;

5. **Notes with appreciation** the financial support that has been provided by some developed countries that are Members of the United Nations and some inter-governmental organizations, within and outside the United Nations system, in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005;

6. **Calls upon** all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to support, as appropriate, the efforts being made for the development of the renewable energy sector in developing countries on the basis of environment-friendly, renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

7. **Takes note** of the decision of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization regarding the strategic importance of the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996–2005 in attaining the objective of sustainable development, and encourages the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to make efforts to promote public awareness in all Member States in this regard, with the support of international, regional and national institutions, both public and private;

8. **Invites** all Governments to encourage the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, in the promotion of research into and the development of renewable sources of energy, in particular, within this context, in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005, in accordance with their respective national policies;

9. **Encourages** the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of adequate technical assist-

* Report A/54/588/Add.7.

¹ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-ninth Session*, Paris, 21 October–12 November 1997, vol. I: Resolutions.

² A/53/395, annex, sect. II.

³ *Ibid.*, annex, sect. V.D.

⁴ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

⁵ See A/53/395, annex, Sect. IV.A.

⁶ A/54/212.

ance and funding and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of renewable sources of energy;

10. **Invites** the Inter-Agency Working Group on Energy to facilitate the contribution of the work under the World Solar Programme to the consideration of the theme of energy by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its ninth session, to be held in 2001;

11. **Requests** the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on concrete action being taken for the effective implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005, including promotion for mobilization of resources;

12. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to include, in his report on energy and sustainable development to the Commission on Sustainable Development, a report on action to be taken to implement the present resolution, including further recommendations on appropriate modalities to promote new and renewable sources of energy;

13. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005". □

54/216

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also its resolutions 53/187 of 15 December 1998 on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and 53/242 of 28 July 1999 on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements,

Recalling further the results and decisions of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, convened

* Report A/54/588/Add.7.

for the purpose of the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21,¹ and, in particular, paragraphs 119 and 122–124 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,²

Recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,³ adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its nineteenth session,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twentieth session,⁴

1. **Welcomes** the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twentieth session and the decisions contained therein;⁵

2. **Takes note**, in particular, of Governing Council decision 20/31 of 4 February 1999, entitled "Proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998–1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000–2001",⁶ in which the Governing Council gives concrete support to the integrated work programme of the Programme and endorsement of its new functional organizational structure, and anticipates an increased level of funding to the Environment Fund for the biennium 2000–2001;

3. **Supports** the proposals for the facilitation of and support for enhancing linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions, *inter alia*, by the United Nations Environment Programme, with full respect for the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned;

4. **Notes with appreciation** the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, and encourages the Governing Council at future sessions to provide its scientific, technical and policy information and analysis of and advice on global environmental issues to the Commission at

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum) resolution 1, annex II.

² Resolution S-19/2, annex.

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/52/25)*, annex, decision 19/1, annex.

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25 and addendum (A/54/25 and Add.1)*.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*, annex, decision 20/31.

future sessions and, in particular, to contribute to the preparation of the ten-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002;

5. **Welcomes** progress in the negotiation of an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants with a view to its earlier conclusion;

6. **Encourages** the supporting role of the United Nations Environment Programme for developing countries, particularly in Africa through the development of policy support and capacity-building for international environmental negotiation, *inter alia*, through the revitalization of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment;

7. **Stresses** the importance of strengthening the United Nations Office at Nairobi in its capacity as the only United Nations Office located in a developing country, and encourages the increased utilization of its facilities;

8. **Notes** the increased cooperation and collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) within the framework of their respective mandates and separate programmatic, budgetary and organizational identities, with a view to improving the effectiveness of their work;

9. **Calls upon** all countries to ensure the provision of sufficient financial resources, on a stable and predictable basis, for the successful implementation of the work programme for the biennium 2000–2001;

10. **Requests** the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources from the regular budget of the United Nations to the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 2000–2001 in accordance with current budgetary practices and to consider ways to further support the revitalization of the Programme. □

54/217

Enhancing complementarities among international instruments related to environment and sustainable development*

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21¹ adopted at its nineteenth special session, in particular part IV thereof, entitled "International institutional arrangements",

* Report A/54/588/Add.7.

¹ Resolution S-19/2, annex.

Recalling also its resolutions 53/186 of 15 December 1998, on international institutional arrangements related to environment and development, and 53/242 of 28 July 1999, on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on international institutional arrangements related to environment and development,²

Taking note of decision 20/28, on promoting links among global environmen-

tergovernmental level, as well as for continued and more concerted efforts to enhance collaboration among the secretariats of relevant decision-making bodies,

Emphasizing the need for environmental conventions to continue to pursue sustainable development objectives that are consistent with their provisions and to be fully responsive to Agenda 21,⁴

1. **Encourages** the Conferences of the Parties to, and the permanent secretariats of, the United Nations Framework Con-

related conventions, *inter alia*, by the United Nations Environment Programme, with full respect for the status of the secretariats of the conventions and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned and, in this regard, supports the proposal of the Secretary-General concerning the establishment of an environmental management group for the purpose of enhancing inter-agency coordination in the areas of environment and human settlements, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 53/242;

4. **Notes with appreciation** all the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/186;

5. **Encourages** the secretariats of the various environmental and environment-related conventions and international organizations, with full respect for the status of the secretariats of the conventions and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, to strengthen cooperation with a view to facilitating progress in the implementation of those conventions at the international, regional and national levels by:

(a) Identifying opportunities for complementarity of activities undertaken to facilitate the implementation of commitments made by the parties to the various conventions;

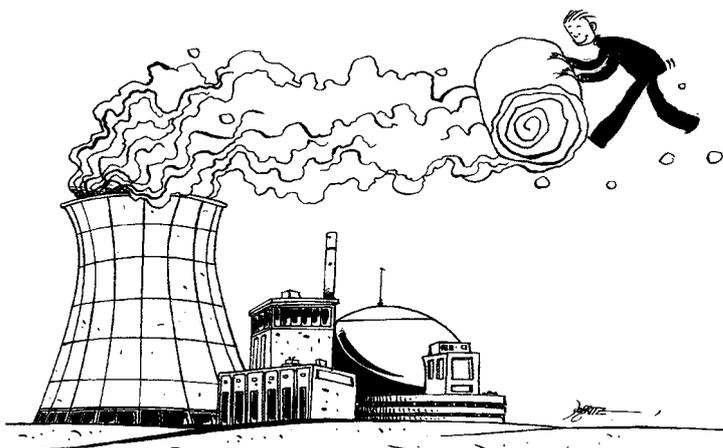
(b) Encouraging the carrying out of further scientific analyses by relevant international organizations, such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariats of the conventions, their subsidiary bodies, the United Nations Secretariat and relevant international scientific bodies, in order to identify possible activities with potential multiple benefits and to bring them to the attention of the conferences of the parties;

(c) Promoting more effective and coherent support from international organizations and financial institutions and mechanisms for national action aimed at the implementation of the conventions, in particular in the area of capacity-building;

(d) Addressing practical issues, such as more effective exchange of information, enhanced awareness-raising and streamlining of national reporting;

(e) Supporting, upon request, efforts being made at the national level to adopt an integrated and holistic approach to the implementation of environmental and environment-related conventions;

(f) Bringing relevant issues to the attention of the General Assembly and relevant



Courtesy: Capital

tal issues and human needs, adopted on 4 February 1999 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,³

Emphasizing that policy decisions under the respective conventions are taken by the conferences of the parties thereto, which are autonomous governing bodies,

Noting that various conventions related to environment and sustainable development are at different stages of implementation, and recognizing the role of the General Assembly in fostering progress in the implementation of environmental and environment-related conventions and of the commitments contained therein,

Noting with appreciation the relevant ongoing work on the implementation of environmental and environment-related conventions at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

Reaffirming the need, as stipulated in part IV of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, for greater coherence in various intergovernmental organizations and processes by means of better policy coordination at the

vention on Climate Change⁵, the Convention on Biological Diversity⁶ and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa⁷ to further examine appropriate opportunities and measures to strengthen their complementarities and to improve scientific assessments of ecological linkages among the three conventions;

2. **Stresses** the need for the integrated consideration of linkages, both among sectors and between sectoral and cross-sectoral aspects of Agenda 21;⁸

3. **Emphasizes** the importance of facilitating and supporting the enhancement of linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-

⁴ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.1.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

⁵ A/AC.237/8 (Part II/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

⁶ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity (Centre), June 1992.

⁷ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

⁸ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Ja-

neiro, 3-14 June 1992 vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.1.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

² A/54/468.

³ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/54/25).

intergovernmental bodies for the consideration of Member States and the formulation of agreed policy recommendations, with a view to promoting a more holistic approach;

6. **Requests** the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the executive secretaries of the conventions, to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to submit it the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session for consideration under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development". □

54/218 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,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 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, held in New York from 23–28 June 1997,

Reaffirming that Agenda 21¹ is the fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development and that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,² adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, 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 in all main areas of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the Conference, and recommendations on the future methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the programme of work of the Commission for the period 1998–2002,

Recognizing also that mutually supportive efforts at the national and international levels are needed in the pursuit of

sustainable development and that the gap between developed and developing countries points to the continuing need for a dynamic and enabling national and international economic environment that is supportive of international cooperation, in particular in the fields of finance, transfer of technology, debt and trade, if the momentum for global progress towards sustainable development is to be maintained and increased,

Noting with concern that, during the assessment and review of progress made at its nineteenth special session, the General Assembly concluded that although some progress had been made, especially at the local level, the overall trends with respect to the global environment had not improved, and emphasizing that the implementation of Agenda 21 in a comprehensive manner remains vitally important and is now more urgent than ever,

Noting that the next review of the implementation of Agenda 21 is to be carried out by the General Assembly in 2002,

Noting also the need for early substantive preparations for the ten-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in order to attain meaningful results,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 53/188 of 15 December 1998 and Commission on Sustainable Development decision 7/9 on preparations for the review of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,³

1. **Stresses** the need to accelerate the full implementation of Agenda 21⁴ and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,⁵

2. **Recognizes** that the Commission on Sustainable Development, within its mandate as specified in General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 and in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, will continue to provide the central forum for reviewing progress on and urging further implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and other commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development or as a result of it, for conducting a high-level policy de-

bate aimed at building consensus on sustainable development, and for catalyzing action on and long-term commitment to sustainable development at all levels;

3. **Calls upon** the Commission on Sustainable Development to continue to undertake these tasks in complementing and providing links to the work of other United Nations organs, organizations and bodies active in the field of sustainable development, to play its role in assessing the opportunities and challenges of globalization as they relate to sustainable development, and to perform its functions in coordination with other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and with related organizations and institutions, including making recommendations, within its mandate, to the Council, bearing in mind the interrelated outcomes of recent United Nations conferences;

4. **Emphasizes** that the achievement of more substantive results by the next review of the implementation of Agenda 21 in 2002 will require concerted efforts at all levels, including by Governments; calls upon all countries to fulfil their commitments to Agenda 21 and, in this context, calls upon developed countries to fulfil the commitments that they have undertaken with respect to financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technology;

5. **Reaffirms** in this context the necessity of providing adequate and predictable financial resources, transferring environmentally sound technologies, and providing capacity-building and technical assistance to developing countries for the implementation of Agenda 21 and for the achievement of the long-term goals of sustainable development, and calls for the preparations for the ten-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, without prejudice to other priority areas that may be identified during the preparatory process, to address the challenges and constraints in the implementation of the commitments of the Conference at all levels and to identify ways and means of accelerating the implementation of Agenda 21, including the development of measures to remedy the slow rate of progress of the international community in implementing Agenda 21;

6. **Notes** the need for assistance to be provided by the international community to countries with economies in transition in their efforts to achieve the objectives of Agenda 21 and the long-term goals of sustainable development;

7. **Emphasizes** the importance of the continued active and collaborative involvement of all relevant bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of

* Report A/54/588/Add.1.

¹ *Ibid.*

² Resolution S-19/2, annex.

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 9 (E/1999/29)*, chap. I.

⁴ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

⁵ Resolution S-19/2, annex.

Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and requests the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with all relevant bodies of the United Nations system and taking into account the outcome of the deliberations in the Commission on Sustainable Development, to submit to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-fifth 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 accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, including the identification of constraints and recommendations on how to address those constraints;

8. **Recognizes** the importance, for the effective implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, of a multi-faceted approach at the local, national, regional and global levels, as well as of the continued involvement of major groups, as defined in Agenda 21, and calls for the preparations for the ten-year review to facilitate continued involvement and input from those various levels and from major groups;

9. **Stresses**, in this connection, the importance of high-quality preparations for the forthcoming ten-year review of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, requests the Secretary-General to include the views of Member States in the preliminary report requested by the Commission on Sustainable Development in its decision 7/9,⁶ and invites Member States to submit their views to the Secretariat by February 2000;

10. **Renews** the request to the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development to invite Governments to submit proposals on how to improve the guidelines for the elaboration of national reports and, based on the information received, to prepare a report to be submitted to the Commission as part of the preparations for the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21;

11. **Invites**, as part of the preparations for the ten-year review:

(a) The regional commissions to provide reports, through the Economic and Social Council in view of its coordination function, on how their activities are contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 for the con-

sideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

(b) The relevant functional commissions that are implementing chapters of Agenda 21 to submit reports, through the Economic and Social Council in view of its coordination function, on how their activities are contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

(c) The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to consider how the activities of the Programme are contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and to submit its views to the General Assembly at the earliest opportunity;

(d) The Global Environment Facility, in the course of its regular work, to provide a report on how its activities are contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

(e) The secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, to provide reports on how their activities are contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

12. **Also invites** the Secretary-General, while preparing the report requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 6 of its resolution 53/188, to take into account the preliminary discussions held by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session and by the Economic and Social Council, and to include in that report proposals for the analytical reports to be prepared for the review process. □

54/219

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: successor arrangements*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994 and 53/185 of 15 December 1998, and reiterating Economic and Social Council reso-

lution 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 on the successor arrangements for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,

Recalling also the results of the programme forum on the International Decade, held at Geneva from 5–9 July 1999, and the Geneva mandate on disaster reduction adopted by the forum, together with the strategy document entitled "A safer world in the twenty-first century: risk and disaster reduction",

Recalling further the forward-looking platform for international concerted disaster reduction as developed by the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction and as expressed in the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action,¹

Reiterating that natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, although the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper their sustainable development,

Recognizing the need for the international community to demonstrate the firm political determination required to utilize scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters and environmental hazards, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/63,²

Noting the Declaration on Technical Cooperation for the Prevention and Relief of Natural Disasters, adopted by the Rio Group at its summit meeting in Mexico in May 1999, as well as the results of the first summit meeting of Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, held at Rio de Janeiro on 28–29 June 1999,³

Taking into account the consideration of natural disasters contained in the report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held at Vienna from 19–30 July 1999,⁴

1. **Notes with appreciation** the reports of the Secretary-General concerning the activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction⁵ and on the recommendations on institutional arrangements for disaster reduction activities of

¹ A/CONF.172/9, resolution 1, annex I.

² A/54/497.

³ A/54/448.

⁴ A/CONF.184/6.

⁵ A/54/132-E/1999/80 and Add. 1.

⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 9 (E/1999/29)*, chap. I.

* Report A/54/588/Add.2.

the United Nations system after the conclusion of the Decade;⁶

2. **Expresses deep concern** at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters, which have resulted in massive losses of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies worldwide, in particular in developing countries;

3. **Endorses** the proposals put forward in the report of the Secretary-General⁷ to ensure the swift establishment of future arrangements for disaster reduction as well as functional continuity for the effective implementation of the international strategy for disaster reduction;

4. **Also endorses** the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish an inter-agency task force and inter-agency secretariat for disaster reduction, under the direct authority of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, in a flexible manner, for the initial period of the biennium 2000–2001, and to undertake a review of these arrangements after the first year of operations with a view to submitting proposals on adjustments;⁸

5. **Decides** to maintain the observance of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction on the second Wednesday of October;

6. **Requests** the Secretary-General to establish, from voluntary contributions, a trust fund for disaster reduction to enable the funding of the inter-agency secretariat for disaster reduction, and to transfer all assets of the Trust Fund for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to the new trust fund for disaster reduction, effective 1 January 2000;

7. **Calls upon** Governments to continue to cooperate and coordinate their efforts with the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, to implement and further develop a comprehensive strategy to maximize international cooperation in the field of natural disasters, based upon an effective division of labour, from prevention to early warning, response, mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction, including through capacity-building at all levels, and the development and strengthening of global and regional approaches that take into account regional, sub-regional, national and local circumstances and needs, as well as the need to strengthen coordination of national emergency response agencies in natural disasters;

8. **Requests** the Secretary-General to solicit the required inputs from Govern-

ments, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations in order to further optimize and disseminate listings of organizations of the United Nations system as well as non-governmental organizations that provide civil protection and emergency response at all levels, with updated inventories of available resources, to help during natural disasters;

9. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to further optimize and disseminate through all available channels, including handbooks, the information necessary to guide the international community at large in the effective management of international cooperation in the fields of disaster prevention, early warning, response, mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

10. **Emphasizes** the urgent need to further develop and make use of existing scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, bearing in mind the particular needs of developing countries and, in this regard, calls upon all countries to strengthen scientific research and training of experts in universities and specialized institutions and to promote the exchange of information;

11. **Recognizes** the importance of early warning as an essential element in the culture of prevention, and encourages renewed efforts at all levels to contribute to natural hazard monitoring and impact prediction, the development and transfer of technology, capacity-building for disaster preparedness, the detection of natural hazards and the issuance and communication of early warnings, as well as education and professional training, public information and awareness-raising activities, such as the Conference on Early Warning Systems for the Reduction of Natural Disasters, held at Potsdam, Germany, in 1998, to ensure adequate action warnings;

12. **Reaffirms** the need for strengthening an international framework for the improvement of early warning systems and disaster preparedness by developing an effective international mechanism for early warning, including the transfer of technology related to early warning to developing countries, under the auspices of the United Nations, as an integral part of future strategies and frameworks or any arrangements for natural disaster reduction;

13. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the international strategy for disaster reduction, under the agenda item entitled "Environment and sustainable development". □

54/220

International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997 and 53/185 of 15 December 1998 on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, and reiterating Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, on the same subject, and 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 on the successor arrangements for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,

Recalling also paragraph 20 of the report of the Secretary-General on successor arrangements for the Decade,¹

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon² and the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its seventh session,³

Having also considered the report on the conclusions and recommendations of the first Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on El Niño, held at Guayaquil, Ecuador, from 9 to 13 November 1998,⁴ and the feasibility study for the establishment of an international research centre on the El Niño/Southern Oscillation,⁵

Reaffirming the importance of developing strategies at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and rehabilitate the damages caused by natural disasters resulting from the El Niño phenomenon,

Taking into account the considerations in relation to the use of tele-observation systems on weather forecast and climate contained in the report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held in Vienna, from 19–30 July 1999,⁶

1. **Takes note** with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General,⁷ and endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

2. **Welcomes** the 1999 retrospective report on the El Niño/Southern Oscillation prepared by the World Meteorological Organization;

* Report A/54/588/Add.2.

¹ A/54/497.

² A/54/135-E/1999/88.

³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 9 (E/1999/29)*.

⁴ See A/C.2/53/10.

⁵ A/54/135-E/1999/88, annex II.

⁶ A/CONF.184/6.

⁷ A/54/135-E/1999/88.

⁶ See A/54/136-E/1999/89.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ See A/54/497, paras. 11-14.

3. **Reiterates** its invitation to Member States in paragraphs 8 and 9 of resolution 52/200 in relation to the technical and financial assistance needed to strengthen the national capacity of developing countries to support observation and research systems at global and regional levels to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by the El Niño/Southern Oscillation;

4. **Welcomes** the recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session regarding the approach that the United Nations system and the international community should take in dealing with the El Niño/Southern Oscillation,⁸ and reiterates its invitation to Member States to cover the impact of the El Niño/Southern Oscillation in their annual national reports;

5. **Calls upon** the Secretary-General, the relevant United Nations organizations and the international community to take necessary measures, as appropriate, to establish an international research centre on El Niño at Guayaquil, Ecuador; invites the international community to provide financial, technical and scientific assistance and cooperation for this purpose, and encourages the centre, once established, to strengthen its links with other relevant regional and global climate-study organizations and to focus on the practical application of information regarding El Niño in such areas as disaster preparedness, agriculture, health, tourism, water and energy;

6. **Requests** the Secretary-General to continue to promote the full implementation of its resolutions 52/200 and 53/185 as an integral part of the agreed arrangements after the conclusion of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

7. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, through the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session and the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, under the agenda item entitled "Environment and sustainable development". □

⁸ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 9 (E/1999/29).*

54/221 Convention on Biological Diversity*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/190 of 15 December 1998 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant

resolutions relating to the Convention,

Recalling also the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹

Reaffirming that the conservation of biological diversity is a common concern of humankind,

Recalling that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

Recalling Agenda 21,² in particular 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 as submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly,³

Deeply concerned about the continued loss of the world's biological diversity, and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reaffirming the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding,

Recognizing the contribution of indigenous and local communities, and women within those communities, to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources,

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fourth meeting⁴ relating to intellectual property rights, traditional knowledge and the relationship of the Convention with other international agreements,

Noting the continuing dialogue taking place in the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organi-

zation on the provisions of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights,⁵

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,

Noting with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Kenya to host the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will be held at Nairobi from 15–26 May 2000,

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,

1. **Notes** the results of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Bratislava from 4–16 May 1998;⁶

2. **Recognizes** the importance of the inter-sessional efforts of the Conference of the Parties since its fourth meeting to improve the effectiveness of the operations of the Convention;

3. **Reaffirms** the importance of the decision of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the adoption of the programmes of work and the thematic approach to guide its work in the development of the Convention for the foreseeable future, including its in-depth consideration of ecosystems;

4. **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 farmers and local communities;

5. **Recognizes** the importance of the adoption of a protocol on biosafety at the resumed session of the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held at Montreal, Canada, from 24–28 January 2000, and calls upon States participating in the negotiations on a protocol on biosafety to work constructively to bring this process to a satisfactory conclusion;

6. **Welcomes** decision IV/15, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, in which the Conference of the Parties stressed the need to ensure consistency in implementing the Convention and World Trade Organization agreements, including the Agreement on Trade-

* Report A/54/588/Add.3.

¹ See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre) June 1992.

² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

³ A/54/428, annex.

⁴ See UNEP/CBD/COP/4/27, annex.

⁵ See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations*, Marrakesh, 15 April 1994 (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

⁶ See UNEP/CBD/COP/4/27, annex.

related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights,⁷ with a view to promoting increased mutual supportiveness and integration of biological diversity concerns and the protection of intellectual property rights;

7. **Reaffirms** paragraph 10 of decision IV/15, in which the Conference of the Parties emphasized 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 lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

8. **Notes** the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Conference of the Parties,⁸ including its recommendation IV/5 on the consequences of the use of the new technology for the control of plant gene expression for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

9. **Stresses** 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 the decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

10. **Encourages** those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

11. **Notes** the meeting of the Panel of Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing, established in accordance with decision IV/8, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting;

12. **Recognizes** the importance of national action to conserve biological diversity in many habitats, including forests, wetlands and coastal areas, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular article 8, and the need to mobilize national and international support for such national actions;

13. **Welcomes** the offer of Spain to host, at Seville in March 2000, the first meeting of the Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, and encourages Governments to include representatives of indigenous and local communities on their delegations to that meeting;

14. **Recognizes** the utility of information exchange, and encourages the development of biodiversity information networks at national, regional and international levels by way of the clearing-house mechanism;

15. **Encourages** the conferences of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, to further examine appropriate opportunities and measures to strengthen their complementarities and improve scientific assessments of ecological linkages between the three conventions;

16. **Encourages** the secretariats of various environmental and environment-related conventions and other international organizations, with full respect for the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, to strengthen cooperation with a view to facilitating progress in their implementation at the international, regional and national levels;

17. **Invites** all funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the secretariat of the Convention in the implementation of the programme of work;

18. **Calls upon** States parties to the Convention to settle urgently any arrears and to pay their contributions in full and in a timely manner so as to ensure continuity in the cash flows required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat;

19. **Invites** the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention;

20. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity". □

54/222

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/115 of 20 December 1995, 51/184 of 16 December 1996 and 52/199 of 18 December 1997 and other relevant resolutions relating to the protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

Noting with satisfaction that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,¹

Noting that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change² has attracted sixteen ratifications, and encouraging necessary action to facilitate the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol at the earliest possible date,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Argentina for hosting the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which culminated in the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,³

Noting that the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was held at Bonn, Germany, from 25 October to 5 November 1999,

Taking note of decision 1/CP.5 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its fifth session, stressing the importance of a successful outcome to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, in particular in reaching decisions on the early and full implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, and welcoming, in that decision, the agreement to an intensified process of negotiations leading to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the generous offer of the Government of the Netherlands to host the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, and urging the Parties to undertake thorough preparations to advance progress at that session,

Taking note of the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session to approve the continuation of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations, subject to review not later than 31 December 2001,

* Report A/54/588/Add.4.

¹ A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add. 1 and Corr. 1, annex I.

² FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add. 1, decision 1/CP.3.

³ FCCC/CP/1998/16/Add. 1, decision 1/CP.4.

⁷ See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations*, Marrakesh, 15 April 1994 (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

⁸ See UNEP/CBD/COP/5/2.

in consultation with the Secretary-General, with a view to making such modifications as may be desirable by both parties,

Taking note also of the decision of the Conference of the Parties whereby the General Assembly is invited to decide at its fifty-fourth session on the issue of meeting the Convention's conference-servicing expenses from its regular budget, taking into account the views expressed by Member States,

Noting the oral report of the Secretary-General and the advice on the continuation of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations,

Noting also that, by paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 50/115, the Secretary-General was requested to make the necessary arrangements to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998–1999 those sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies that the Conference may need to convene in that period,

1. **Encourages** Member States that have not ratified or acceded to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁴ to do so with a view to bringing it into force;

2. **Calls upon** all States parties to continue to take effective steps to implement their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,⁵ in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

3. **Encourages** all countries to work constructively towards advancing the work necessary for the timely entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and its implementation;

4. **Approves** the continuation of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations, as advised by the Secretary-General and approved by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session;

5. **Encourages** the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity⁶ and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification,⁷ particularly in Africa, to further examine appropriate opportunities and measures to pool their knowledge and improve

scientific assessments of ecological linkages between the three conventions;

6. **Encourages** the secretariats of various environmental and environment-related conventions and other international organizations, with full respect for the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties of the conventions concerned, to



Courtesy: FAZ

strengthen cooperation with a view to facilitating progress in their implementation at international, regional and national levels;

7. **Requests** the Secretary-General to review the functioning of this institutional linkage not later than 31 December 2001, in consultation with the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties, and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

8. **Decides** to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2000–2001 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for that biennium, in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties;

9. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind". □

54/223

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 53/191 of 15 December 1998 and other relevant reso-

lutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

Noting with satisfaction that, as indicated in paragraph 19 of its resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997, the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention was held at Dakar from 30 November to 11 December 1998,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Senegal for the generous manner in which it hosted and provided facilities for the second session of the Conference of the Parties,

Expressing its deep appreciation also to the Government of Brazil for its generous offer to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the allocation of additional resources to the Global Mechanism by the Conference of the Parties at its third session,

Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing desertification, land degradation and drought issues,

Acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world and that joint action of the international community is needed to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought,

Stressing the need, *inter alia*, to integrate strategies for poverty eradication into efforts to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought,

Noting with satisfaction that an increasing number of countries and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties and on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/191,¹

1. **Welcomes** the convening of the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, at Recife, Brazil, from 15 to 26 November 1999;

2. **Calls upon** all States and other actors to contribute effectively to the successful outcome of the third session of the Conference of the Parties;

3. **Also calls upon** all remaining countries that are not yet parties to the Con-

⁴ FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add. 1, decision 1/CP.3.

⁵ A/AC/237/18 (Part II/Add. 1 and Corr. 1, annex I.

⁶ See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

⁷ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

* Report: A/54/588/Add.5.

¹ A/54/96.

vention to ratify or accede to the Convention as soon as possible;

4. **Emphasizes** the importance of implementing the provisions of the Convention at all levels, including the general provisions and obligations of affected and developed countries;

5. **Notes with satisfaction** that the Convention secretariat was relocated to Bonn at the end of January 1999 and that it has begun functioning as the permanent secretariat of the Convention;

6. **Notes** that the Global Mechanism started its activities early in 1999, that it has not yet begun to fully support, *inter alia*, enabling activities under the Convention, and that resources have been made available to it, and invites the Global Mechanism to effectively develop all its activities and support under the Convention;

7. **Also notes** the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its third session related to the first review of policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, and, in this context, urges donors, international organizations and the Global Mechanism, within its mandate, to support the preparation of national reports;

8. **Welcomes** the steps being taken by affected developing country parties, with the assistance of international organizations, to implement the Convention and the efforts being made to promote the participation of all actors of society in the elaboration of national, regional and sub-regional action programmes to combat desertification;

9. **Also welcomes** the efforts made by affected African country parties, developed country parties, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to produce and submit reports for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

10. **Requests** the Global Mechanism, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention and the relevant decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first, second and third sessions, to effectively carry out its mandate of assisting affected developing country parties in the implementation of the Convention;

11. **Calls upon** the secretariat of the Convention and the Global Mechanism to cooperate fully in carrying out their activities as provided for in their respective mandates;

12. **Welcomes** the financial support already provided on a voluntary basis by some countries, and urges Governments, the private sector and all relevant organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to make or continue to make voluntary contributions to the Global

Mechanism to enable it to effectively and fully implement its mandate;

13. **Also welcomes** the contributions paid by some country parties, and calls upon all parties that have not done so to pay promptly and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties,² so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference, the subsidiary bodies, the permanent secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

14. **Further welcomes** the initial contribution made by the International Fund for Agricultural Development to the Special Resources for the Convention to Combat Desertification Finance Account, and invites the Fund to make available as soon as possible the remaining balance to the Account, in conformity with its pledge made at the first session of the Conference of the Parties in Rome;

15. **Invites** all other relevant organizations and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and other members of the Facilitation Committee of the Global Mechanism, to also make contributions to enable the Global Mechanism to successfully support the implementation of the Convention;

16. **Notes with satisfaction** that the Secretary-General, in conformity with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 52/198, closed, on 31 December 1998, the Trust Fund and the Special Voluntary Fund established under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 and transferred the amounts remaining in the Trust Fund and the Special Voluntary Fund, respectively, to the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund established on 1 January 1999 in accordance with relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;

17. **Calls upon** Governments, multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;

18. **Decides** to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2000–2001 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidi-

ary bodies, including the fourth and fifth ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties and meetings of its subsidiary bodies;

19. **Notes with appreciation** that some affected developing countries and one region have adopted their national and regional action programmes, and therefore calls upon the international community to contribute to the implementation of those programmes through, *inter alia*, the conclusion of partnership agreements, relevant bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes that are available to implement the Convention and contributions from non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

20. **Invites** affected developing countries that have not yet adopted their national action programmes and, where appropriate, regional and subregional action programmes, to accelerate the process of elaboration and adoption of their action programmes with a view to finalizing them no later than the end of 2000;

21. **Calls upon** the international community, in particular the developed countries and the United Nations system, and invites the multilateral financial institutions, the private sector and all other interested actors to support the efforts of affected developing countries in the processes of elaborating and implementing action programmes to combat desertification, including, as appropriate, interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation by providing them with financial resources and other forms of assistance;

22. **Welcomes** the progress made in producing a draft additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for the countries of Eastern and Central Europe with a view to adopting it at the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties, and invites those countries to continue their efforts towards acceding to the Convention;

23. **Encourages** the conferences of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, to further examine appropriate opportunities and measures to strengthen the complementarities and improve scientific assessments of ecological links among the three conventions;

24. **Also encourages** the secretariats of various environmental and environment-related conventions and other international organizations, with full respect for the statutes of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous deci-

² ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, paras. 7-11.

sion-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, to strengthen cooperation with a view to facilitating progress in their implementation at international, regional, subregional and national levels;

25. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, as well as on the outcome of the third session of the Conference of the Parties;

26. **Reminds** the States parties to the Convention that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 52/445 of 18 December 1997, beginning in 2000, the conferences of the parties to the conventions signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development or established as a result of the Conference, as well as other conventions relating to sustainable development, shall take all appropriate measures to avoid convening their sessions and those of their subsidiary bodies during the sessions of the General Assembly;

27. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa". □

54/224

Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997 and 53/189 of 15 December 1998,

Recognizing that small island developing States face special challenges and vulnerabilities of both an environmental and economic nature in their efforts to achieve sustainable development,

Recalling the Declaration¹ and review document² adopted at the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly,

Noting the significant efforts being made at the national and regional levels

and the need for them to be supplemented by effective financial support from the international community,

Bearing in mind the over 300 projects that were presented for financing within the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States³ at the meeting of representatives of donors of small island developing States held in New York from 24 to 26 February 1999,⁴

1. **Reiterates** the significance of the effective implementation of the Declaration⁵ and review document⁶ adopted at the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly;

2. **Requests** the Secretary-General to transmit the Declaration and review document to the various organs of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, taking into account the areas identified in the review document for priority action, and urges them to take the action necessary for further implementation and effective follow-up;

3. **Calls upon** Governments, the regional commissions and organizations and other intergovernmental organizations to support the efforts of the small island developing States, taking into account those areas identified in the review document for priority action, and urges them to take the action necessary for the further implementation and effective follow-up of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;⁷

4. **Calls upon** all stakeholders, in particular local communities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to take the action necessary for the further implementation and effective follow-up of the Programme of Action;

5. **Emphasizes** the need for the provision of resources for the further implementation of the Programme of Action;

6. **Urges** all relevant organizations to finalize, preferably before the end of 2000, the work on the development of a vulner-

ability index, in particular for the small island developing States, which would assist in defining the vulnerability of those States and in identifying the challenges to their sustainable development, for consideration by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly at the appropriate time;

7. **Welcomes** the acknowledgement by the Committee on Development Policy that the concept of vulnerability should be included explicitly in the identification criteria for the least developed countries,⁸ and notes the ongoing discussions on the new criteria proposed by the Committee;

8. **Calls upon** the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to give substantive consideration in its work to the Declaration and review document, including in its preparations for its tenth session;

9. **Invites** the Commission on Sustainable Development to consider in its work programme, as appropriate, matters relating to the further implementation of the Programme of Action, bearing in mind the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly;⁹

10. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Environment and Sustainable Development", the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

11. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution. □

⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 13 (E/1999/33)*, chap. I.C.

⁹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-22/9/Rev.1)*.

54/225

Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development*

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development¹ adopted by the United Nations Conference

* Report A/54/588/Add.6.

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.1.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

³ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April to 6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁴ See A/S-22/4.

⁵ See Resolution S-22/2, annex.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April to 6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, Resolution 1, annex II.

* Report: A/54/588/Add.6.

¹ See resolution S-22/2, annex.

² *Ibid.*

on Environment and Development in 1992, and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados² and Programme of Action³ adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1994, as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Recalling the Declaration and review document⁴ adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

Recalling also the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

Taking into account all other relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly,

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea⁵ and emphasizing the fundamental character of the Convention,

Taking note of the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region of 1983, which contains the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

Considering that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States which are ecologically fragile and economically vulnerable and also affected by, *inter alia*, their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, social problems, high levels of poverty and the challenges and opportunities of globalization,

Considering also that the Caribbean Sea area, nearly all of which is separated from the open ocean by either continental or insular land masses, is characterized by a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems, such as the second largest coral reef system in the world, the heavy reliance of most States, countries and territories on their coastal areas and the marine environment in general to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals, the

number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national sovereignty and jurisdiction, which present a challenge to the effective management of resources, the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea area for maritime transportation and, notwithstanding the increase in the number of regulatory measures, the threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and from the release of hazardous and noxious substances in violation of relevant international rules and standards,

Emphasizing that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change and variability, associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño Southern Oscillation phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

Mindful of the strong interaction and competition among socio-economic activities in the countries of the region for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

Mindful also of the efforts made by the Caribbean countries to address, in a more holistic manner, the sectoral issues relating to the management of the Caribbean Sea and in so doing to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea in the context of sustainable development,

Noting the efforts of Caribbean countries, within the framework of the Association of Caribbean States, to develop further and seek recognition of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as an area of special importance in the context of sustainable development,

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea area to present and future generations and its importance to the heritage, continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area, and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

Noting the problem of marine pollution caused, *inter alia*, by land-based sources in the Caribbean Sea area

1. **Recognizes** the importance of adopting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

2. **Encourages** the further development of the integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, which

will include environmental, economic, social, legal and institutional elements and will take into account the experience gained, as well as the provisions of Agenda 21,⁶ the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,⁷ the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in conformity with relevant international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;⁸

3. **Calls upon** the Caribbean countries to develop further an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

4. **Also calls upon** the international community and the United Nations system, in particular the relevant agencies, actively to support efforts to develop further and implement the above-mentioned approach;

5. **Further calls upon** Member States to give priority to improving their emergency response capabilities and to increasing their participation in existing mechanisms so as to allow for a timely, effective and coordinated response to natural disasters and for the containment of environmental damage in the Caribbean Sea area in the event of an accident or incident relating to maritime transport;

6. **Invites** all parties concerned to take action, as appropriate, to address land-based sources of marine pollution;

7. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, under the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Environment and Sustainable Development", on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations. □

² *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April to 6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

³ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁴ See resolution S-22/2, annex.

⁵ *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

⁶ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), Resolution 1, annex II.

⁷ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April to 6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), Chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁸ *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.