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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

CHAPTER XIII

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

* The present document is a mimeographed version of chap. XIII of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1980. The full report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/35/3/Rev.1). For the contents, see A/35/3 and Corr.1.

1. The Economic and Social Council considered the question of international co-operation on the environment at its second regular session of 1980 under agenda item 11.

2. For its consideration of the item, the Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its eighth session (UNEP/GC.8/10 and Corr.1 and 2); 1/

(b) Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization in category I consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/1980/NGO/4).

3. At its 23rd meeting, on 2 May 1980, the Council allocated the item to the First (Economic) Committee, which considered it at the 8th to 10th and 20th meetings, from 7 to 9 and on 18 July 1980. For the report of the Committee on this item, see document E/1980/95.

ACTION BY THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

International co-operation on the environment

4. The Committee considered a draft resolution entitled "International co-operation on the environment", which was sponsored by States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77. 2/

5. At the 20th meeting, the Committee considered a second draft resolution issued under the same title, which was submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Zoran Lazarević (Yugoslavia), as a result of informal consultations, held under his chairmanship, on the basis of the draft resolution submitted by the Group of 77. 3/

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution and submitted it to the Council. For action by the Council, see paragraph 7 below.

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

7. At the 43rd meeting, on 23 July 1980, the Council considered the draft resolution recommended by the Committee in its report (E/1980/95, para. 10) and adopted the draft resolution. For the final text, see the annex below, Council resolution 1980/49.

1/ For the printed text, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/35/25).

2/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

3/ A statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution was circulated under the symbol E/1980/C.1/L.12.

ANNEX

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council under agenda item 11 a/

Resolution 1980/49. International co-operation on the environment

The Economic and Social Council.

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 34/188 of 18 December 1979, in which the Assembly, inter alia, stressed the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to increase the resources available for its projects in the developing countries, in accordance with their requirements and priorities, bearing in mind the need for regional balance and the environmental problems arising from under-development and poverty, as well as the balance between global and regional programmes as identified in the relevant decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Reaffirming that environmental considerations should be viewed in the context of national plans and priorities and the development objectives of all countries, in particular the developing countries,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its eighth session, b/

Taking note of the results of the High-level Meeting within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe on the Protection of the Environment, held at Geneva from 13 to 15 November 1979, c/ and of decision 8/16 of 29 April 1980 of

a/ A compilation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council in 1980 will be issued as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement Nos. 1, 1A and 1B (E/1980/80 and Add.1 and 2).

b/ UNLP/GC.8/10 and Corr.1, 2 and 4 to 6; for the printed text, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/35/25).

c/ For the report of the Meeting, see E/ECE/993. See also Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 8 (E/1980/28), paras. 38-62, and UNEP/GC.8/10, para. 67.

the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, requesting the Executive Director of the Programme to co-operate closely with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe in the implementation of the decisions of that Meeting, d/

Concerned that the target for the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 1978-1981 may not be attained,

1. Takes note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its eighth session and transmits it to the General Assembly for consideration;

2. Recommends to the General Assembly the consideration of the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the interrelationships between resources, environment, people and development, e/ and emphasizes that models for studying such interrelationships should take due account of the specific requirements of different regions and countries and include the elaboration of a programme of work on the interrelationships, which should be closely linked with the integrated system-wide interagency programming and planning and be placed under the direction of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, who should assume overall responsibility for the co-ordination of the system-wide efforts;

3. Calls upon the United Nations Environment Programme, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 34/188, to elaborate concrete and specific proposals on energy and the environment, aimed at making an effective and meaningful contribution to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, and to report thereon, through its Governing Council, to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1981;

4. Welcomes the growing co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and invites them to intensify that co-operation;

5. Calls upon Governments, international financial institutions and multilateral financial organizations to give high priority to and allocate significant resources for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification; f/

6. Invites the General Assembly to give favourable consideration to the recommendation of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, contained in its decision 8/2 of 29 April 1980, g/ that the Governing

d/ See UNEP/GC.8/10, annex I.

e/ See ibid., decision 8/1 of 29 April 1980, sect. II, and annex II.

f/ A/CONF.74/36, chap. I.

g/ See UNEP/GC.8/10 and Corr.1 and 2, annex I.

Council should hold, in 1982, a session of a special nature to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which would be open to all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency as full members of that session;

7. Expresses its appreciation of the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme in the development of the System-wide Medium-term Environment Programme, in co-operation with the entire United Nations system, and requests all organizations within the system to continue to co-operate fully with the United Nations Environment Programme in this endeavour;

8. Strongly appeals to all Governments to make every effort to pledge, in 1980, substantial increases in their contributions for 1981 or, to those Governments that have not yet contributed to the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, to pledge to do so in 1980, in order that the agreed target for the Fund for the period 1978-1981 may be reached;

9. Invites Governments to consider proposals whereby additional contributions to the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme would be used for measures dealing with serious environmental problems in developing countries, taking into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 34/188, and requests the Governing Council of the Programme to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1981.

43rd plenary meeting
23 July 1980
