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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Report of the First (Economic) Committee

1. The First (Economic) Committee considered the question of international co-operation on the environment (agenda item 11) at its 6th to 8th, 12th, 15th and 18th to 20th meetings, on 11, 12, 14, 18 and 20 to 22 July 1988. 1/ It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its first special session (A/43/25); 2/

(b) Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 42/187 (A/43/353-E/1988/71);

(c) Preliminary report of the Secretary-General on illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes (E/1988/72);

(d) Letter dated 13 July 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council (E/1988/105).

1/ At its 18th meeting, on 6 July 1988, the Council allocated the item to the Committee.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 25.

Action taken by the First (Economic) Committee

2. At its 6th to 8th meetings, on 11 and 12 July, the Committee held a general discussion on the item. At its 6th meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.
3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Egypt and the Philippines and the observers for Nigeria and Switzerland. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund made a statement. The representative of the World Confederation of Labour, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council, category I, also made a statement.
4. At the 7th meeting, on 12 July, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic countries), China, Greece (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community), Bulgaria, Jamaica, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, Japan, Australia, India and Poland and the observer for Barbados.
5. At the 8th meeting, on 12 July, statements were made by the representatives of Trinidad and Tobago and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the observers for Mexico, Bangladesh and Czechoslovakia. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization made a statement. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme also made a statement.

International cooperation on the environment

6. At the 12th meeting, on 14 July, the observer for Tunisia, 3/ on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (E/1988/C.1/L.2) entitled "International co-operation on the environment".
7. At its 19th meeting, on 21 July, the Committee had before it amendments submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations. The amendments were as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 1, which read:

"1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to review, in co-operation with other competent organizations, the adequacy of measures taken to provide additional financial resources to developing countries, on terms appropriate to the economic situation of the recipient developing countries, in order to ensure that in seeking sustainable and environmentally sound development, the development priorities of developing countries are not adversely affected, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session through the Economic and Social Council",

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

was replaced by the following text:

"1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in co-operation with competent organizations to carry out an up-to-date review along the lines required by General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), section III, paragraph 4, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council";

(b) After operative paragraph 1, a new operative paragraph was inserted, reading:

"2. Calls upon all Governments to request their central economic and sectoral agencies to ensure that their policies, programmes and budgets encourage sustainable development and to strengthen the role of their environmental and natural resource agencies in advising and assisting the central and sectoral agencies in that task".

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended (see para. 22 below, draft resolution I).

Traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes

9. At the 12th meeting, on 14 July, the observer for Tunisia, 3/ on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (E/1988/C.1/L.3) entitled "Traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes".

10. At the 20th meeting, on 22 July, the Secretary of the Committee informed the Committee that, during informal consultations, it had been agreed that the draft resolution should be amended as follows:

(a) In the third preambular paragraph, the words "Noting also that much of this traffic" were replaced by the words "Concerned that part of this traffic";

(b) In the fourth and seventh preambular paragraphs, the words "Member States" were replaced by the words "all States";

(c) In the sixth preambular paragraph, the words "many countries, particularly in the" were inserted before the words "developing countries";

(d) In operative paragraph 1, the words "in line with internationally accepted guidelines and principles" were inserted after the words "United Nations system";

(e) In operative paragraph 1, subparagraph (a) and in operative paragraph 2, the word "illegal" was inserted before the word "traffic";

(f) In operative paragraph 3, the words "and on steps taken to eliminate or reduce this type of traffic" were added at the end of the paragraph.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended (see para. 22 below, draft resolution II).

Global convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes

12. At its 20th meeting, on 22 July, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Global convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes", which was submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations and subsequently circulated in document E/1988/C.1/L.10.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted a draft resolution (see para. 22 below, draft resolution III).

International co-operation on the environment

14. At the 12th meeting, on 14 July, the observer for Tunisia, 3/ on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft decision (E/1988/C.1/L.4) entitled "International co-operation on the environment".

15. At the 18th meeting, on 20 July, the Chairman of the Committee read out the following amendments, which had been agreed upon during informal consultations:

(a) The words "and the United Nations Environment Programme" were deleted after the words "International Atomic Energy Agency";

(b) The words "within existing resources" were inserted after the words "to submit";

(c) The words "through the Economic and Social Council" were replaced by the words "through the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme".

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision, as orally amended (see para. 23 below, draft decision I).

17. The Secretary of the Committee made a statement with regard to the programme budget implications of the draft decision.

International co-operation on the environment: the Environment Fund

18. At the 15th meeting, on 18 July, the observer for Tunisia, 3/ on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (E/1988/C.1/L.11) entitled "Work of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its first special session".

19. At the 20th meeting, on 22 July, the Chairman of the Committee informed the Committee that, during informal consultations, it had been agreed that the draft resolution should be amended as follows:

(a) The title, "Work of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its first special session", was amended to read "International co-operation on the environment: the Environment Fund";

(b) In the second preambular paragraph, the word "grave" was deleted before the word "concern", the words "and their implicit decrease in real terms" were deleted after the words "resources available to the Environment Fund" and the words "sustained and durable growth and development" were replaced by the words "sustained, environmental sound and socially just development";

(c) The third preambular paragraph, which read:

"Considering that a substantial increase in real terms in the resources of the Environment Fund is urgently needed",

was replaced by the following text:

"Considering that a 50 per cent increase in real terms in the resources of the Environment Fund is desirable";

(d) In operative paragraph 3, the word "Endorses" was replaced by the word "Welcomes", and the words "the strategies in" were deleted after the words "implementation of";

(e) In operative paragraph 4, the words "considered a substantial increase in their contributions" were replaced by the words "Substantially increased their contributions";

(f) After operative paragraph 4, a new operative paragraph was inserted, reading:

"Considers it essential to increase the resources of the Environment Fund substantially";

(g) The last operative paragraph, which read:

"Calls upon Governments of developed countries contributing to the Environment Fund to continue to do so and to raise the level of their contribution by at least 50 per cent, and further calls on those that have not contributed in the past to begin to do so at a commensurate level, in order to give the Fund a much wider base",

was replaced by the following text:

"Calls upon Governments of developed countries that have not contributed in the past to the Environment Fund to do so at a commensurate level, in order to give the Fund a much wider base, and encourages those Governments that are contributing to the Fund to continue to do so and to increase, if possible, their contributions, in accordance with their capacity to do so".

20. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended (see para. 22 below, draft resolution IV).

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of
General Assembly resolution 42/187

21. At its 20th meeting, on 22 July, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it take note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 42/187 (see para. 23 below, draft decision II).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

22. The First (Economic) Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

International co-operation on the environment

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 on institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental co-operation, in particular, section III, paragraph 4 thereof,

Reiterating the need to keep under review the problem of additional costs that may be incurred by developing countries in the implementation of environmental programmes and projects,

Reaffirming the need for additional financial resources to be provided by donor countries and organizations to assist developing countries in identifying, analysing, monitoring, preventing and managing environment problems in accordance with their national development plans, priorities and objectives.

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in co-operation with competent organizations, to carry out an up-to-date review, along the lines required by General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), section III, paragraph 4, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council;

2. Calls upon all Governments to request their central economic and sectoral agencies to ensure that their policies, programmes and budgets encourage sustainable development and to strengthen the role of their environmental and natural resource agencies in advising and assisting the central and sectoral agencies in that task;

3. Requests the organizations of the United Nations system concerned to include in their reports to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session an account of the measures they have taken to give effect to the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 42/184 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987 calling on them to provide additional resources to developing countries.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 42/183 of 11 December 1987,

Noting that the preliminary report of the Secretary-General on illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes ^{4/} indicates a trend of increased international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes, which in most cases has tended to flow from developed to developing countries,

Concerned that part of this traffic is carried out in contravention of existing national legislation and relevant international instruments,

Emphasizing the urgent need for all States to transmit pertinent information requested by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in response to General Assembly resolution 42/183,

Taking into account the increase in this traffic as reported by various organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and the international media,

Deeply concerned at the rising incidence of dumping of toxic wastes in many countries, particularly in the developing countries,

Considering the potential danger to the health of the population and to the environment of all States posed by toxic and dangerous products and wastes,

1. Requests the Secretary-General, in preparing his report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, to draw on information provided by the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations of the United Nations system, in line with internationally accepted guidelines and principles, and to focus on the following:

(a) A quantitative and geographical assessment, by region of origin and of destination, of the illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes;

(b) A classification of types of toxic and dangerous products and wastes according to their nature, potential toxicity and the probability of their being traded or dumped;

2. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit conclusions and recommendations on different mechanisms that can be devised to monitor and control the illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes;

^{4/} E/1988/72.

3. Further requests the Secretary-General to increase his efforts to obtain information on illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous wastes and on steps taken to eliminate or reduce this type of traffic.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Global convention on the control of transboundary
movements of hazardous wastes

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts with a Mandate to Prepare a Global Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes, convened by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to Governing Council decision 14/30 of 17 June 1987, 5/ and that the draft of the convention will be submitted to a diplomatic conference for adoption by Governments in Basel, Switzerland, in early 1989,

1. Stresses the importance of the active participation of all Governments in the preparatory work for the global convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, with a view to its speedy and successful completion;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on developments in regard to the convention.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

International co-operation on the environment: the Environment Fund

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its first special session, 6/

Expressing its concern at the almost complete stagnation in nominal terms of the resources available to the Environment Fund, at a time when the challenges facing the international community in the field of environment and in the achievement of sustained, environmentally sound and socially just development by the developing countries continue to multiply and assume critical importance,

Considering that a 50 per cent increase in real terms in the resources of the Environment Fund is desirable,

5/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/42/225), annex I.

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/43/25).

1. Takes note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its first special session;
2. Recognizes the resolve of the Governing Council to exercise fully the role expected of it in accordance with its mandate;
3. Welcomes the request of the Governing Council 7/ to the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system to give priority to the provision of financial and technical assistance for the effective implementation of each of the programme areas of the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation; 8/
4. Expresses its appreciation to those Governments that have substantially increased their contributions to the Environment Fund;
5. Considers it essential to increase the resources of the Environment Fund substantially;
6. Calls upon Governments of developed countries that have not contributed in the past to the Environment Fund to do so at a commensurate level, in order to give the Fund a much wider base, and encourages those Governments that are contributing to the Fund to continue to do so and to increase, if possible, their contributions, in accordance with their capacity to do so.

23. The First (Economic) Committee also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

International co-operation on the environment

The Economic and Social Council requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to submit, within existing resources, a report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the effects on the environment of the dumping of nuclear wastes.

DRAFT DECISION II

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 42/187

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 42/187. 9/

7/ Ibid., annex, decision SS.I/5, sect. I.

8/ UNEP/AEC.1/2, annex I, resolution 1/1, section. I.

9/ A/43/353-E/1988/71.