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Follow-up of General Assembly resolutions

**ISSUES ARISING FROM THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FIFTY-
SEVENTH SESSION THAT ARE OF SPECIFIC SIGNIFICANCE TO THE WORK OF THE
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note, a standing reporting requirement of the Governing Council as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, provides information on issues arising from resolutions adopted at the fifty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly that specifically call for action by, or are of relevance to, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In areas where follow-up action to the resolutions has not been indicated, provision is made in the reports of the Executive Director under the relevant agenda items. The text of the note has been reproduced without formal editing.

The outcome of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly reflects a discernable increase in the number of resolutions that deal with environmental issues and that specifically refer to, acknowledge, or have a direct bearing on, the work of UNEP, also indicating the increasing importance accorded to environmental issues in the work of the General Assembly.

* UNEP/GC.22/1.

ISSUES ARISING FROM THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Resolutions calling for action by UNEP

1. The General Assembly adopted resolution 57/251, entitled, '**Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh special session**', on 20 December. Taking into account the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), and recalling that therein the Assembly was invited to consider the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership for UNEP's Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the Assembly underlined its unique role, as the United Nations' (UN) highest intergovernmental decision-making body, in giving consideration to the issue and, therefore, the need for a thorough analysis by Member States and the relevant UN system bodies to enable it to fully consider all its legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, before making a decision.
2. Reaffirming the role of UNEP as the principal body within the UN system in the field of environment, which should take into account, within its mandate, the sustainable development needs of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, the Assembly took note of the report of UNEP's Governing Council on its seventh special session, and the decisions contained therein, and expressed appreciation to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance for its report as adopted by the Governing Council.
3. Recalling the decision made at WSSD to fully implement the outcomes of decision 1 on international environmental governance adopted by UNEP's Governing Council, the Assembly invited Member States, the Governing Council, and relevant UN system bodies to submit their comments on the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, including its legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, to the Secretariat, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report incorporating those views to the Assembly before its sixtieth session.
4. The General Assembly reiterated its desire to be informed on the work of the Environment Management Group. It also requested UNEP, within its mandate, to continue to contribute to sustainable development programmes and the implementation of Agenda 21 at all levels, bearing in mind the mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). The Assembly also reiterated the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for UNEP, and in this regard underlined the need to consider adequate reflection of all UNEP's administrative and management costs in the context of the UN regular budget. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UNEP and the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) under review so as to permit the delivery of necessary services to UNEP and other UN organs and organizations in Nairobi in an effective manner.
5. By its resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, on the '**World Summit on Sustainable Development**', the General Assembly, reaffirming the commitment to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the UN Millennium Declaration, and in the outcomes of the major UN conferences and international agreements since 1992, welcomed the adoption by the Summit of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The Assembly expressed its satisfaction that the Summit and its preparatory committee provided for the active participation of, *inter alia*, all States Members, and various intergovernmental organizations, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the UN system, at the highest level, as well as the major groups representing all regions of the world. The Assembly reaffirmed the need to ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development, and that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development. It also noted with interest the partnership initiatives

voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups, announced at the Summit.

6. Expressing its profound gratitude to the Governments and the peoples of Indonesia and South Africa for hosting, respectively, the fourth preparatory committee meeting and the Summit, the Assembly took note with satisfaction of the report of WSSD, and endorsed the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.
7. The Assembly decided to adopt sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for UN activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the UN Millennium Declaration, and to give overall political direction to the implementation of Agenda 21 and its review. The Assembly urged Governments and all relevant international and regional organizations, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), UN funds, programmes and regional economic commissions, specialized agencies, international financial institutions, the GEF, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups, to take timely actions to ensure the effective follow-up and implementation of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and encouraged the implementation of partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups, and called for further discussion of this matter within CSD. The Assembly also called for the implementation of the commitments, programmes and time bound targets adopted at the Summit and, to this end, for the fulfillment of the provisions of the means of implementation as contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.
8. ECOSOC was requested to ensure that the CSD holds an organizational meeting in January 2003 and its next session in April/May 2003, and the Secretary-General was requested to prepare a report containing proposals on the modalities of the future work of CSD, taking into account the decisions contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. ECOSOC was requested to implement the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation relevant to its mandate, in particular to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening system-wide coordination. The Secretary-General was requested to take into full account the WSSD outcomes, in particular the decisions made on the institutional framework for sustainable development as contained in chapter XI of the Plan of Implementation, in the ongoing process of reform of the UN and in his contribution to the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, and he was asked to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the fifty-eighth session.
9. In resolution 57/51 on the '**Question of Antarctica**', adopted on 22 November 2002, the General Assembly, conscious of the particular significance of Antarctica to the global and regional environment, its effects on climate conditions, and scientific research, recognized the value of the Antarctic Treaty in furthering the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. The Assembly noted with satisfaction the entry into force of the Madrid Protocol on Environmental Protection, under which Antarctica has been designated as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science, and its provisions 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. The Assembly also welcomed the continuing cooperation among countries undertaking scientific research activities in Antarctica, which may help to minimize human impact on the environment.
10. The Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica (A/57/346) and the role accorded to UNEP in preparing his report, and recalled that States carrying out research activities in Antarctica should make their findings available to the international community. The Assembly welcomed the invitations to the Executive Director of UNEP to attend Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings in order to assist such meetings in their substantive work, and urged the parties to continue to do so. The practice whereby the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties regularly provided the Secretary-General with information was welcomed, and he was requested to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixtieth session.

11. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/33 of 19 November 2002, two days of plenary meetings were devoted to the consideration of 'Oceans and the law of the sea' and the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Subsequently, on 12 December 2002, the Assembly adopted resolution 57/141 entitled '**Oceans and the law of the sea**'. The Assembly reaffirmed that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out. The Assembly recognized the important role that the competent international organizations have in relation to ocean affairs, in implementing the Convention and in promoting the sustainable development of the oceans and seas.
12. The Assembly welcomed the outcome of WSSD, and recalled, *inter alia*, the essential role of international cooperation and coordination in promoting the integrated management and sustainable development of the oceans and seas. Underlining the essential need for capacity-building to ensure that all States, especially developing countries, are able both to implement the Convention and to benefit from the sustainable development of the oceans and seas, the Assembly emphasized the need to strengthen the ability of competent international organizations to contribute, at the global, regional, subregional and bilateral levels, to the development of national and local capacity in marine science and the sustainable management of oceans and their resources.
13. The Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General, and emphasized the critical role of the annual comprehensive report, which constitutes the basis for the annual consideration and review of developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea by the Assembly. The Assembly also took note of the report on the work of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process (the "Consultative Process") at its third meeting.
14. The General Assembly welcomed the Plan of Implementation, adopted at WSSD and the commitments set out therein for actions at all levels, within specific periods for certain goals, to ensure the sustainable development of the oceans, including sustainable fisheries, the promotion of the conservation and management of the oceans, the protection of the marine environment from pollution, and the improvement of scientific understanding and assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems as a fundamental basis for sound decision-making. The Assembly urged relevant bodies of the UN system to develop, with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) acting as a focal point and, where appropriate, other competent organizations, appropriate interactions in the field of marine science with regional fisheries organizations, environmental and scientific bodies or regional centres and encourages States to strengthen existing centres and to establish, where appropriate, such regional centers.
15. The Assembly reiterated its call, in line with the WSSD Plan of Implementation, for reviews by the relevant international organizations of the efforts to build capacity in order to identify the gaps that may need to be filled for ensuring consistent approaches, both nationally and internationally, in order to implement the Convention and chapter 17 of Agenda 21. The Assembly called upon UNEP, working within the Global Resource Information Database (GRID) system for data and information management, to expand on a voluntary basis the capacity of existing GRID centers to store and handle research data from the outer continental margin, on a basis to be mutually agreed with the coastal State, and complementary to existing regional data centres, giving due regard to confidentiality needs and in accordance with Part XIII of the Convention, and making use of existing data management mechanisms under the IOC and International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), with a view to serving the needs of coastal States, and in particular developing countries and small island developing States, in their compliance with article 76 of the Convention.
16. The Assembly emphasized the importance of the implementation of Part XII of the Convention in order to protect and preserve the marine environment and its living marine resources against pollution and physical degradation, and called upon all States to cooperate and take measures, directly or through competent international organizations. The Assembly called upon States to continue to prioritize action

on marine pollution from land-based sources as part of their national sustainable development strategies and programmes, in an integrated and inclusive manner, as a means of implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA). The Assembly also called upon States to advance the implementation of the GPA and the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, to enhance the protection of the marine environment from pollution and other physical impacts, and to improve the scientific understanding and assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems as a fundamental basis for sound decision-making through the actions identified in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

17. The Assembly further invited all relevant UN agencies to review individually their arrangements for collecting information and data relevant to the marine environment and for ensuring the quality of such data, using to the fullest possible extent what is available at the regional level, and to consider collectively how to ensure that the resulting information and data sets provide, within the constraints of existing resources, an acceptably consistent, coherent and comprehensive basis for international decision-making. It further decided to establish by 2004 a regular process under the UN for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments, and requested the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with Member States, relevant organizations and agencies and programmes of the UN system, including UNEP and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to prepare proposals on modalities for a regular process for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, drawing, *inter alia*, upon the work of UNEP pursuant to Governing Council decision 21/13, and taking into account the recently completed review by the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection, and to submit these proposals to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session for its consideration and decision, including on the convening of a possible intergovernmental meeting.
18. The Assembly encouraged States to ratify or to accede to international agreements to prevent, reduce, control and eliminate pollution from ships, dumping, the carriage of hazardous and noxious substances, anti-fouling systems on ships and persistent organic pollutants, as well as agreements that provide for compensation for damage resulting from marine pollution. It noted with deep concern the extremely serious damage of an environmental, social and economic nature brought about by oil spills as a result of recent maritime accidents which have affected several countries; and therefore called upon all States and relevant international organizations to adopt all necessary and appropriate measures in accordance with international law to prevent catastrophes of this kind from occurring in the future.
19. The Assembly invited States to cooperate at the regional level to develop regionally shared goals and timetables in pursuance of the GPA, including through regional seas conventions. The Assembly also called upon States to take measures for the protection and preservation of coral reefs and to support international efforts in this regard, in particular those outlined in decision VI/3 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the CBD at its sixth meeting, held at The Hague from 7 to 19 April 2002, and to develop national, regional and international programmes for halting the loss of marine biodiversity, in particular fragile ecosystems, and to accelerate the development of measures to address the problem of invasive alien species in ballast water.
20. The Assembly called upon States to promote the conservation and management of the oceans in accordance with chapter 17 of Agenda 21 and other relevant international instruments, to develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools, including the ecosystem approach, the establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks by 2012 and time/area closures for the protection of nursery grounds and periods, proper coastal and land use and watershed planning, and the integration of marine and coastal areas management into key sectors. The Assembly encouraged relevant international organizations, *inter alia*, UNEP, and the Secretariat of the CBD, with the assistance of regional and subregional fisheries organizations, to consider urgently ways to integrate and improve, on a scientific basis, the management of risks to marine biodiversity of seamounts and certain other underwater features within the framework of the Convention.

21. The Assembly emphasized the importance of regional organizations and arrangements for cooperation and coordination in integrated oceans management, and, where there are separate regional structures for different aspects of oceans management, such as environmental protection, called for those different structures, where appropriate, to work together for optimal cooperation and coordination.
22. The Assembly reaffirmed 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, and welcomed the work of the Open-ended informal consultative process on oceans and the law of the sea (UNICPOLOS), and noted its contribution to strengthening the Assembly's annual debate on oceans and the law of the sea, and decided to continue with the Consultative Process for the next three years, with a further review of its effectiveness and utility at the sixtieth session. The Secretary-General was requested to convene the meeting of the Consultative Process in New York from 2 to 6 June 2003. It was recommended that the Consultative Process organize its discussions around (a) protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems, and (b) safety of navigation.
23. The General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to establish an effective, transparent and regular inter-agency coordination mechanism on oceans and coastal issues within the UN system, and recommended that this new mechanism should have a clear mandate and be established on the basis of principles of continuity, regularity and accountability, taking into account paragraph 49 of Part A of the report on the work of the Consultative Process at its third meeting. The Assembly invited Member States and, where appropriate, competent international organizations to identify focal points for the exchange of practical and administrative information concerning law of the sea and ocean issues with the UN Secretariat. The Secretary-General was requested to bring the resolution to the attention of heads of intergovernmental organizations, the specialized agencies and funds and programmes of the UN engaged in activities relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, drawing their attention to paragraphs of particular relevance to them, and underlined the importance of their constructive and timely input for the Secretary-General's report and of their participation in relevant meetings and processes. Competent international organizations were invited to take specific account of the resolution in their programmes and activities, and to contribute to the preparation of the comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea. The Secretary-General was requested to report to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the resolution, including other developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, in connection with his annual comprehensive report.
24. In a related resolution (57/142) adopted on 12 December 2002, entitled, '**Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas/illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments**', the General Assembly, welcomed the outcomes of WSSD concerning the importance of achieving sustainable fisheries to the maintenance of oceans, seas, islands and coastal areas as an integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem. The Assembly, *inter alia*, recognized the importance of integrated, multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral coastal and ocean management at the national, subregional and regional levels, and that coordination and cooperation in the areas, *inter alia*, of data collection, information-sharing, capacity-building and training are crucial for the conservation, management and sustainable development of marine living resources.
25. The Assembly took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General, and emphasized the useful role that the report plays in bringing together information relating to the sustainable development of the world's marine living resources. The Assembly, *inter alia*, expressed concern at the reports of continued loss of seabirds, particularly albatrosses, as a result of incidental mortality from longline fishing operations, and the loss of other marine species, and noted with satisfaction the successful conclusion of negotiations on the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels negotiated under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and encouraged States to give due consideration to participation in this Agreement. The Assembly also reaffirmed the importance it attaches to the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of the marine living resources of the world's oceans and seas, in accordance with international law, as

reflected in the relevant provisions of the Convention, and reaffirmed the commitment made at WSSD to restore depleted fish stocks on an urgent basis and where possible not later than 2015.

26. The Assembly urged all States to apply the precautionary approach widely to the conservation, management and exploitation of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks. The Assembly further encouraged States to apply by 2010 the ecosystem approach, and noted the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem and decisions V/6 and VI/12 of the Conference of Parties to the CBD. The Assembly reiterated the importance of efforts by, *inter alia*, international organizations, to increase the capacity of developing States to achieve the goals and implement the actions called for in the resolution.
27. The Assembly noted with satisfaction the activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), in cooperation with relevant UN agencies, in particular UNEP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), aimed at promoting the reduction of by-catch and discards in fisheries activities, and called upon FAO, UNEP, in particular its Regional Seas Programme, International Maritime Organization (IMO), regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other appropriate intergovernmental organizations to take up, as a matter of priority, the issue of marine debris as it relates to fisheries and, where appropriate, to promote better coordination and help States to implement fully relevant international agreements.
28. The Assembly invited States entitled to become parties to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and their Habitats to consider doing so, and to participate in its work, and invited States entitled to become parties to the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia to consider doing so, and to participate in their work.
29. The Secretary-General was requested to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, relevant intergovernmental organizations, the organizations and bodies of the UN system, regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and to invite them to provide him with information relevant to the implementation of the resolution. He was requested to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.
30. In another related resolution (57/261), entitled, **‘Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development’**, adopted on 20 December 2002, the General Assembly recalled the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, and welcomed the adoption of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Convention, and the entry into force of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention. The Assembly considered that the Caribbean Sea area includes developing States that are ecologically fragile and are affected, *inter alia*, by their narrow resource base, and recognized that it has a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystem, and that Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change and climate variability, associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts. The Assembly underlined the importance of the ongoing work of the group on climate change and natural disasters established by the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction.
31. The Assembly recognized the Caribbean Environment Outlook process currently being undertaken by UNEP, and welcomed the support being provided by UNEP’s Caribbean Environment Programme towards its implementation. Noting the problem of marine pollution caused, *inter alia*, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area, the Assembly noted the efforts of the Caribbean countries to develop further support for their concept of the Caribbean Sea as an area of special importance, in the context of sustainable development.

32. The Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General, and encouraged the further promotion of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, and the continued efforts of the Caribbean countries, including regional cooperation, in the management of their ocean affairs, to address such issues as land-based pollution, pollution from ships, and physical impacts on coral reefs. The Assembly called upon States to continue to prioritize action on marine pollution from land-based sources as part of their national sustainable development strategies and programmes, and to advance the implementation of the GPA and the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities. The Assembly also called upon the UN system and the international community to assist Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, from illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, as well as pollution from land-based activities. The Assembly further called upon all relevant States to take the necessary steps to bring into force, and to support the implementation of, the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.
33. The Assembly called upon States, taking into consideration the CBD, to develop national, regional and international programmes for halting the loss of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular fragile ecosystems, such as coral reefs, and invited the UN system to continue efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols and to implement them effectively, also called upon the international community, the UN system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invited the GEF, within its mandate, to support actively the above-mentioned approach. The Secretary-General was requested to report to the Assembly's fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations.
34. In resolution 57/260 of 20 December 2002 dealing with the '**Convention on Biological Diversity**' (CBD), the General Assembly, reaffirmed that the CBD is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The Assembly underlined the importance of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, their development and wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices, their protection subject to national legislation, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their commercial use, in accordance with the provisions of the CBD.
35. Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Assembly noted with interest the partnership initiatives voluntarily announced at the Summit, and took note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the CBD, the outcome of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and the outcome of the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Assembly welcomed the fact that 185 countries and 1 regional economic integration organization have become parties to the CBD and urged States that have not joined the Convention to become parties to it, and invited parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety as soon as possible.
36. The Assembly reiterated the importance of the decision of the fourth World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Meeting to examine the relationship between the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the CBD, as well as the protection of traditional knowledge. The Assembly recalled the commitments made at WSSD to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries and includes actions at all levels, and

in this regard called upon the international community to provide the necessary support to developing countries and stressed the importance of effective use of resources.

37. The Assembly also recalled the commitment made at WSSD to negotiate within the framework of the CBD, bearing in mind the Bonn Guidelines, an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and invited the Conference of the Parties to take appropriate steps in this regard. The Assembly further recalled the commitment made to implement the expanded action-oriented work programme of the CBD on all types of forest biological diversity, in close cooperation with the UN Forum on Forests, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other forest-related processes and conventions, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.
38. The Assembly noted the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification (UNCCD), particularly in Africa and the CBD, and encouraged continued cooperation to promote complementarities among the secretariats while respecting their independent legal status. The Assembly also called upon the secretariat of the CBD to continue to work closely with the GEF and other relevant institutions, to help developing countries build the required national capacities to prepare for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including in the areas of risk assessment and risk management. The Assembly welcomed the launching of the pilot phase of the Biosafety Clearing House and called for strengthened international support for developing countries to build their national capacities to interact with it and to benefit from its expeditious strengthening so that it becomes fully functional at the time of the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
39. The Assembly further emphasized the need for a substantial increase in financial and technical resources, for the implementation of the CBD and its Protocol by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and in this context welcomed the successful and substantial third replenishment of the GEF. The Executive Secretary of the CBD was invited to continue to report to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention.
40. On 11 December 2002 the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/115 on the ‘**Effects of Atomic Radiation**’, in which it took note with appreciation of the work of the Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and reaffirmed the desirability of the Scientific Committee to continue its work. The Assembly expressed concern about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which mankind and the environment are exposed. Conscious of the continuing need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on mankind and the environment, the Assembly noted with concern that, owing to insufficient resources, the Scientific Committee was not able to hold a regular session in 2002, and that as a result, was not able to address its new programme of work effectively. The Assembly commended the Scientific Committee for the valuable contribution it has been making since its inception, and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement, and reaffirmed the decision to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee. The Assembly also invited the Scientific Committee to submit its programme of work to the Assembly. It endorsed the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the Assembly, and requested it to continue to review important problems in the field of ionizing radiation and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.
41. The Assembly requested UNEP 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, and invited the Scientific Committee to continue its consultations with scientists and experts from interested Member States in the process of preparing its future scientific reports. The Assembly invited Member States, the organizations of the UN system and NGOs 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.

42. The Assembly urged UNEP to review and strengthen the present funding of the Scientific Committee, pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 56/50, so that the Committee can discharge the responsibilities and mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly, and emphasized the need for the Scientific Committee to hold regular sessions on an annual basis so that its report can reflect the latest developments and findings in the field of ionizing radiation and thereby provide updated information for dissemination among all States.
43. General Assembly resolution 57/245 of 20 December 2002, addressed the **‘International Year of Mountains, 2002’**. By that resolution, the Assembly, recognizing chapter 13 of Agenda 21 and the WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in particular paragraph 42 thereof, as the overall policy framework for sustainable mountain development, noted the voluntary International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, launched during WSSD, as an important approach to addressing the various interrelated dimensions of sustainable mountain development.
44. The Assembly took note of the Bishkek Mountain Platform, the outcome document of the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, held at Bishkek, from 28 October to 1 November 2002, which was the concluding event of the International Year of Mountains. The Assembly also took note of the interim Secretary-General’s report on the International Year of Mountains, and welcomed the success achieved during the Year, during which numerous activities and initiatives were undertaken at all levels, which catalyzed a strengthened interest for sustainable development and poverty eradication in mountain regions. The Assembly recommended that the experience gained during the Year be valued in the context of an appropriate follow-up, and noted with appreciation the work undertaken by FAO, as well as the valuable contributions made by, *inter alia*, UNEP. The Assembly encouraged, *inter alia*, the UN system, to provide support to the local, national and international programmes and projects resulting from the Year, and invited the international community and other relevant partners to consider joining the voluntary International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions.
45. The Assembly encouraged all relevant entities of the UN system, within their respective mandates, to continue their constructive collaboration in the context of the follow-up to the International Year of Mountains, taking into account the inter-agency group on mountains, and the need for the further involvement of the UN system, including FAO and UNEP, consistent with the mandates specified in the Bishkek Mountain Platform. The Assembly decided to designate 11 December as International Mountain Day, and encouraged the international community to organize on this day events at all levels to highlight the importance of sustainable mountain development, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the achievements of the International Year of Mountains.
46. The General Assembly adopted resolution 57/275 of 20 December 2002 on **‘The Twenty fifth special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)’**, in which UN-Habitat, UNEP and other relevant organs and organisations of the UN system are called upon to increase cooperation and strengthen coordination of their activities, within the framework of their respective mandates and separate programmatic identities, in order to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, with a view to supporting sustainable development. The Assembly also calls upon UN-Habitat to further support the implementation of the Water for African Cities programme.
47. In its resolution 57/235 of 20 December 2002, on **‘International trade and development’**, the Assembly noted the health and environment-related measures that have an impact on exports and stressed that the adoption or enforcement of any measures necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health should not be applied in a manner that would constitute arbitrary or unjustified

discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. The Assembly welcomed the cooperation on trade, environment and development, *inter alia*, in the field of technical assistance to developing countries, between the secretariats of the WTO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP and other relevant international developmental or environmental organizations. In a related resolution (57/236 of 20 December 2002) on '**Commodities**', the Assembly, stressed that in line with the WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, mutual supportiveness between the multilateral trading system and the multilateral environmental agreements, consistent with sustainable development goals, should be promoted in support of the work programme agreed through the WTO, while recognizing the importance of maintaining the integrity of both sets of instruments.

48. In its resolution 57/34, adopted on 21 November 2002 entitled '**Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization**', the Assembly, welcomed the activities of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization to strengthen regional cooperation in various fields, such as environmental protection, and welcomed the signing of the cooperation agreement between the Organization and UNEP, at Istanbul on 20 February 2002, and the support provided by the Programme to the activities of the organization.
49. In its resolution 57/38, adopted on 21 November 2002 entitled, '**Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization**', the General Assembly recognized the significance of environmental issues such as air and water pollution in the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization, took note of the decision to hold the First Economic Cooperation Organization Ministerial Meeting on Environment in 2002, and welcomed efforts made by UNCTAD to hold a workshop on trade and environment under its capacity-building task force project with UNEP.

Further resolutions of relevance to UNEP's work programme

50. In its resolution 57/259 of 20 December 2002 on the '**Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa**', (UNCCD) the General Assembly, taking into account the WSSD Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, took note of the report of the Secretary-General, and welcomed the decision taken by the Second Assembly of the GEF that the Facility shall be available to serve as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD, and invited the Conference of the Parties at its sixth session, to be held in Havana in September 2003, to consider making the Facility a financial mechanism of the Convention, while recognizing the complementary roles of the GEF and the Global Mechanism in providing and mobilizing resources. The Assembly encouraged the Conference of the Parties and the Council and Assembly of the GEF to continue to collaborate closely and effectively to facilitate the financing of the successful implementation of the UNCCD by supporting financial mechanisms such as the Facility so as to fully achieve the objectives of the Convention, and invited the Council of the GEF at its May 2003 meeting to finalize and adopt the operational programme for land degradation, particularly desertification and deforestation.
51. The Assembly emphasized that, in the light of the ongoing assessment of the implementation of the Convention, the affected developing-country parties need the full and effective support of the GEF, within its mandate, and other partners for capacity-building and other activities, which assist them in meeting their obligations under the Convention. The Assembly welcomed the successful and substantial third replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, which will provide additional resources necessary to enable the Facility to continue to be responsive to the needs and concerns of its recipient countries.
52. The Assembly noted with satisfaction the steps being taken by affected developing countries, with the assistance of international organizations, to implement the Convention and the efforts being made to promote the participation of all actors of civil society in the elaboration and implementation of national action programmes, and in that regard encouraged countries to cooperate at the subregional and regional levels. The Assembly also noted the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of

the relevant subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC, the UNCCD and the CBD, and encouraged continued cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status. The Secretary-General was requested to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the resolution.

53. By resolution 57/257 of 20 December 2002 dealing with the **‘Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind’**, the Assembly, recalling the provisions of the Convention, including acknowledging that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions, and the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, remained deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, face increased risks of negative impacts of climate change. The Assembly took note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention, and recalled the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases.
54. The Assembly called upon States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC, and noted that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention strongly urge States that have not already done so to ratify it in a timely manner. Taking note of the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its eighth session, the Assembly noted the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC, the UNCCD, and the CBD, and encouraged cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status. The Executive Secretary of the Convention was invited to report to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the work of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties.
55. In a related resolution, 57/258 of 20 December 2002, entitled, **‘World Climate Change Conference’**, the General Assembly, welcoming the ongoing work in the UN system on climate change, in particular within the framework of the Convention and recognizing with concern the findings of the third assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which confirm that significant cuts in global emissions will be necessary to meet the ultimate objective of the Convention, and recognizing the ongoing consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the implications of the report, reaffirmed the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in which States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol strongly urge States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner.
56. Recognizing the need for strengthening scientific and technological capabilities and networks for the exchange of scientific data and information, the Assembly welcomed the initiative of the Government of the Russian Federation to convene the World Climate Change Conference in Moscow from 29 September to 3 October 2003 as a forum aimed at exchanging views among the scientific community, Governments, parliaments, international and national organizations, the private sector and other representatives of civil society and at facilitating the implementation of existing policies related to climate change. The Assembly encouraged Member States and, *inter alia*, relevant organizations and institutions of the UN system, to participate actively in the Conference, and invited them to take advantage of the Conference in order to increase awareness of the importance of international efforts to address climate change.
57. General Assembly resolution 57/255 of 20 December 2002 addressed **‘International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon’**. By that resolution, the Assembly, reaffirming the importance of developing strategies that aim to prevent, mitigate and rehabilitate the damage caused by natural disasters that result from the El Niño phenomenon, took note of the report of the Secretary-General, and encouraged the Government of Ecuador, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) to continue their joint efforts aimed at the completion of the process to establish the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon. The Assembly called upon the Secretary-General and the relevant UN organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in ISDR, to adopt as appropriate, the necessary measures to support the establishment of the research centre at Guayaquil, Ecuador. The international community was invited to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen other centres devoted to studying the El Niño phenomenon. The Assembly encouraged the Centre, once established, to strengthen its links with other relevant regional and global climate-study organizations, as well as with Internet information services, in order to ensure an effective and efficient use of available resources. It requested the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to ensure appropriate consideration of measures needed to address more effectively extreme meteorological and hydrologic events, like the El Niño phenomenon, in the process of the ten-year review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action. The Secretary-General was requested to report to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

58. In a related resolution (57/256) on the **‘International Strategy for Disaster Reduction’** (ISDR), adopted on 20 December 2002, the Assembly, emphasizing the multisectoral, interdisciplinary and cross-cutting nature of natural disaster reduction, stressed that continued interaction, cooperation and partnerships among the institutions concerned is considered essential to achieving jointly agreed objectives and priorities. The Assembly expressed its deep concern at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies, and recognized that disaster reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to sustainable development, and that there is an urgent need to develop further and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters. The Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of ISDR, and welcomed the memorandum of understanding signed with UNDP and encouraged the secretariat to pursue the establishment of similar arrangements with other international organizations in order to improve synergies and clarify respective roles. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in reporting to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, to provide specific proposals for the implementation of the actions on this matter agreed to by WSSD in its Plan of Implementation. The Assembly also decided to take a decision on how to conclude the review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action at its fifty-eighth session, and requested the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the inter-agency secretariat for ISDR to plan and coordinate the review of the Yokohama Strategy in 2004 and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session in this regard.
59. In a related decision adopted on 20 December 2002, the General Assembly decided to consider the issue of **‘Natural disasters and vulnerability’** at its fifty-eighth session and to request the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly on the negative impacts of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters on vulnerable countries, in particular developing countries, in a separate section of his report on ISDR. On 16 December, the Assembly also adopted a related resolution entitled **‘International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development’**.
60. By its resolution 57/252 of 20 December 2002 on **‘Activities undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003’**, the Assembly recalling the commitment made at WSSD to launch programmes of action, with financial and technical assistance, to achieve the Millennium development goal on safe drinking water, namely to halve by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water, and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation, took note of the report of the Secretary-General. The Assembly welcomed the activities undertaken by States, the Secretariat, and the organizations, programmes and funds of the UN system that are engaged in inter-agency work related to freshwater and by major groups in preparation for the observance of the International Year of Freshwater, and encouraged them to continue their efforts and

support to activities related to the year, and to link relevant activities to the Year. The Assembly also encouraged the UN system to take advantage of the Year to raise awareness of the essential importance of freshwater resources for satisfying basic human needs and for health and food production and the preservation of ecosystems, as well as for economic and social development in general, and to promote action at the local, national, regional and international levels, and called for high priority to be given to the serious freshwater problems facing many regions, especially developing countries. The Assembly further encouraged voluntary partnerships to promote activities related to the Year, and requested the Secretary-General to promote closer coordination to elaborate and support proposals and undertake activities related to the Year, and to submit a report to the Assembly's fifty-ninth session on implementation of the resolution.

61. By its resolution 57/300 adopted on 20 December 2002, entitled, '**Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change**', the Assembly welcomed the efforts and initiatives of the Secretary-General aimed at further reforming the UN to cope with contemporary challenges and address new priorities facing the Organization in the twenty-first century, and stressed that the strengthening of the UN encompasses the revitalization, reform and restructuring of the principal organs of the UN. The Assembly also welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General to submit a shorter proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 that fully justifies the resource requirements and better reflects the priorities of the medium-term plan for 2002-2005, the UN Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of the major international conferences, while emphasizing that reform should not be seen as a budget-cutting exercise.
62. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to start, on a trial basis, a consultative process with the President of the General Assembly and the Chairmen of the Main Committees of the Assembly at the end of the main part of each session of the Assembly, with a view to consolidating reports on related subjects, and to submit proposals on recurring reporting requirements to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.
63. The Assembly endorsed the decision of the Secretary-General to entrust the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa, who will report directly to him, with the responsibilities of: coordinating and guiding the preparation of Africa-led reports and inputs, particularly support for the NEPAD, and the coordination of global advocacy in support of NEPAD; and coordinating the interdepartmental task force on African affairs to ensure coherence and an integrated approach for UN support to Africa, including following up the implementation of all summit and conference outcomes related to Africa and addressing gaps and initiating reports on critical issues affecting Africa. In addition, the Assembly approved the transfer of resources to the new Office of the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa, and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the new Office is reflected in the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, with the allocation of adequate resources for its expanded mandate.
64. The Assembly also concurred with the intention of the Secretary-General to establish a panel of eminent persons, reflecting a diversity of views, to review the relationship between the UN and civil society, stressing that the terms of reference of such a panel should underscore the intergovernmental character of the UN, and decided to consider the recommendations of the panel through the respective intergovernmental process. The Assembly decided that the creation of a partnership office as part of the effort to enhance cooperation in the work of the Organization with the private sector should be subject to its resolutions 55/215 and 56/76 (both entitled "Towards Global Partnership").
65. The Assembly recognized the need to continue to improve and streamline the planning, programming and budgetary cycle of the Organization, and took note of the Secretary-General's proposal for a shorter, more strategic medium-term plan that is linked to the budget outline. In that connection, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a more detailed proposal to it, through ACABQ, for consideration at its fifty-eighth session.

66. The Assembly reaffirmed the roles of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) in the intergovernmental consideration of the planning, programming and budgeting process. It welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen the system of evaluation and monitoring, and noted the proposal for a single-stage intergovernmental review of the programme budget and medium-term plan, and requested further clarification in this regard. The Assembly shared the Secretary-General's vision to foster excellence among UN staff, *inter alia*, by rejuvenation, while ensuring the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, as well as equitable geographical representation and gender balance. The Assembly requested a study on ways to promote General Service staff to Professional posts.
67. The Assembly welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General to continue to improve management, and requested him to continue to improve accountability and responsibility as well as monitoring and control mechanisms and procedures. The Secretary-General was requested to submit a progress report on the implementation of the reform measures to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.
68. General Assembly Resolution 57/144 of 16 December 2002 on the **'Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit'** recognized the important contributions made by the conferences and special sessions, in particular the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the WTO, held in Doha, the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey and WSSD, held in Johannesburg, and reaffirmed the importance of the implementation and follow-up of the Millennium Declaration in a comprehensive, integrated, coordinated and balanced manner at national, regional and international levels.
69. The Assembly took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the UN Millennium Declaration, and recognized the uneven progress made so far in achieving the objectives agreed upon and urged Member States to continue to undertake with determination appropriate measures towards its implementation. The Assembly invited, *inter alia*, the organizations and agencies of the UN system, to continue to pursue vigorously the achievement of the objectives and goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, and invited them to engage in the review of its implementation and, in this context, requested the Secretary-General to include in his next report information on the support to be provided by the UN system in this regard. The Assembly decided to consider, at its fifty-eighth session, convening a high-level plenary meeting during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and consideration of the quinquennial comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved, and that the review process will be considered within the framework of the integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, while taking into account the need to attach more importance, coherence and visibility to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and its review process. The Assembly also invited the UN system, in cooperation with Member States, to promote awareness of the Millennium Declaration, and the development goals contained therein, through increased dissemination of information and widespread publicity. A related decision, resolution 57/145, **'Responding to global threats and challenges'**, requests the Secretary-General, in his report on the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, to include observations on a more comprehensive and coherent response to the global threats and challenges of the twenty-first century, including the protection of the environment.
70. Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly held on 16 September 2002 adopted resolution 57/2 entitled **'The United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development'** (NEPAD). The meeting formed part of the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF). In the NEPAD Declaration, the Assembly recommitted itself to meeting the special needs of Africa as recognized in the Millennium Declaration, the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2001 substantive session of ECOSOC on the role of the UN in support of the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development, the Monterrey

Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

71. The Assembly welcomed NEPAD as an African Union-led, -owned and -managed initiative, and recognized that it is a serious commitment to addressing the aspirations of the continent. The Assembly welcomed the commitment of African countries to take effective and concrete measures, *inter alia*, through the establishment of various institutional mechanisms and the development of strategies, for the implementation of NEPAD, reflecting the recognition that the primary responsibility for its implementation rests with the African Governments and peoples. The Assembly affirmed that international support for the implementation of NEPAD is essential, and while acknowledging the support so far expressed or provided, urged the UN system and the international community, in particular donor countries, to assist with implementation of NEPAD.
72. In a related resolution, the Assembly adopted, on 4 November 2002, the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly, as contained in resolution 57/7 entitled the '**Final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development**'. By the resolution, the Assembly welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the final review and appraisal of UN-NADAF, in particular the lessons learned about the New Agenda, as well as recommendations and proposals on the modalities for the future engagement of the UN with NEPAD. The Assembly took note of the report of the independent evaluation on UN-NADAF and expressed its disappointment at the limited progress made in realizing the objectives of the New Agenda. The Assembly decided to bring UN-NADAF to a close, and endorsed the recommendation that NEPAD should be the framework within which the international community, including the UN system, should concentrate its efforts for Africa's development.
73. The Assembly welcomed NEPAD, reaffirmed its commitment to the UN Declaration on NEPAD, urged the international community and the UN system to organize support for African countries in accordance with the principles, objectives and priorities of NEPAD in the new spirit of partnership, and recognized the importance and strongly encouraged the involvement of the private sector and civil society in the implementation of NEPAD. The Assembly called upon the UN system, within respective mandates, to align its activities in Africa with the priorities of NEPAD, in accordance with the priorities determined by each African country, and urged the scaling up of resources for this purpose. The Assembly also called upon the UN system to enhance its advocacy role and public information activities in support of Africa's development. It urged the UN system, in coordinating its activities at the national, regional and global levels, to foster a coherent response, including through close collaboration with bilateral donors. The Assembly welcomed actions already under way at the regional level to organize the activities of the UN system around thematic clusters covering the priority areas of NEPAD and, in this regard, urged the strengthening of this process as a means of enhancing the coordinated response of the UN system in support of NEPAD. It called upon the UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies to further strengthen their existing coordination and programming mechanisms, and urged the UN system to work closely with the African Union and other regional and sub-regional intergovernmental organizations, to ensure the implementation of the programmes and priorities of NEPAD. The Assembly also invited ECOSOC, pursuant to its role in respect of system-wide coordination, to consider how to support the objectives of the resolution, and requested the Secretary-General to submit the first consolidated report on the implementation of the resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the basis of input from Governments, the UN system and the other stakeholders in NEPAD, such as the private sector and civil society.
74. By its resolution 57/262 on the '**Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**', adopted on 20 December 2002, the General Assembly, taking into account the WSSD Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the particular emphasis given to small island developing States (SIDS), welcomed the establishment of the Office of the High Representative for the Least

Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and SIDS, and emphasized the importance of SIDS issues within the UN system.

75. Recognizing that SIDS experience specific problems arising from, *inter alia*, their vulnerability to natural disasters, fragile ecosystems, lack of natural resources, and limited freshwater supply, the Assembly reiterated the importance of the vulnerability index as a tool for assessing, and thereby addressing, the vulnerability of SIDS, as well as identifying the challenges to their sustainable development. The Assembly emphasized the continuing need for the technical and financial support of projects that were presented within the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as well as the partnership initiatives presented by SIDS and their organizations during WSSD.
76. The Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General, and reiterated the urgent need for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS and of the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session, and welcomed the efforts made at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action. The Assembly requested the relevant organs and agencies of the UN system to undertake concrete measures, within their respective mandates, for the further implementation of the Programme of Action in the context of their programmes.
77. The Assembly decided to convene an international meeting in 2004, which will include a high-level segment, to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and welcomed the offer of the Government of Mauritius to host the international meeting. The Assembly also decided that the comprehensive review should seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to, and should focus on, practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action. The Assembly further decided to convene regional preparatory meetings, as well as an interregional preparatory meeting. The UN system was called upon to put in place modalities at the international level that will facilitate these meetings. The Assembly requested that the UN system draw upon, *inter alia*, material prepared for WSSD, in order to minimize the burden on participating States while maximizing the usefulness of the information gathered, and invited CSD, at its eleventh session, to consider its role in the preparatory process for the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action.
78. Relevant regional and international agencies and organizations were invited to participate fully in the activities identified for the further implementation of and effective follow-up to the Programme of Action and in the preparations for the comprehensive review. The Assembly also invited all international meetings of relevance to SIDS to provide relevant input into the comprehensive review and its preparatory process. All relevant organizations were urged to finalize, by 2004, work on the vulnerability index. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the resolution.
79. In a related resolution, 57/41 of 21 November 2002, entitled '**Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community**', the Assembly noted that WSSD considered the specific issues and problems facing SIDS and the call to convene a special meeting in 2004 to review the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. The Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the UN and the Caribbean Community, as well as efforts to strengthen that cooperation, and urged the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the UN system to cooperate in order to initiate, maintain and increase consultations and programmes with the Caribbean Community and its associated institutions in the attainment of their objectives. The Assembly recommended that the third general meeting between representatives of the Caribbean Community and its associated institutions and of the UN system be held in New York in March 2003 in order to review and appraise progress in the implementation of the agreed areas and issues and to hold consultations on such additional measures and procedures as may be required to facilitate and strengthen cooperation between the two organizations. The Secretary-General was requested to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution.

80. The General Assembly adopted resolution 57/101 on **‘International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan’** on 25 November 2002. By that resolution, the Assembly, recognizing that the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground remains a matter of serious concern for the people and Government of Kazakhstan with regard to its consequences for the lives and health of the people, especially children and other vulnerable groups, as well as for the environment of the region, and conscious that the international community should pay due attention to the issue of the human, ecological and socio-economic dimensions of the situation in the Semipalatinsk region, recognized the need to coordinate national and international efforts aimed at the rehabilitation of the health of the affected population and the environment in this region. Recognizing the contribution of different organizations of the UN system, the Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General and the information about the measures taken to solve the health, ecological, economic and humanitarian problems and to meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region, and stressed the need for continuing international attention and extra efforts.
81. The Assembly invited relevant organs and organizations of the UN system to participate in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region. The Assembly invited the Secretary-General to pursue a consultative process, with the participation of interested States and relevant UN agencies, on modalities for mobilizing the necessary support to seek appropriate solutions to the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including those prioritized in the report of the Secretary-General. The Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enhance world public awareness of the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region, and requested him to report to the Assembly at its sixtieth session on progress made.
82. By its resolution 57/269 of 20 December 2002 regarding the **‘Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources’**, adopted by vote of 155-4-4, the General Assembly, reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land and water, and called upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, to cause loss or depletion of or to endanger the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan. The Assembly further recognized the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, loss or depletion of, or danger to, their natural resources, and expressed the hope that this issue will be dealt with in the framework of the final status negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. The Secretary-General was requested to report to it at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the resolution.
83. On 22 November 2002 The Assembly adopted resolution 57/67 on **‘Mongolia’s international security and nuclear-weapon-free status’**, in which it requested the Secretary-General and relevant UN bodies to continue to provide assistance to Mongolia in taking the necessary measures to, *inter alia*, consolidate and strengthen Mongolia’s ecological balance.
84. By its resolution 57/116 on **‘International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space’**, adopted on 11 December 2002, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space’s Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fortieth session, consider, *inter alia*, matters relating to remote-sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth’s environment. The Assembly also recommended that more attention be paid and political support be provided to all matters relating to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth’s environment, and urged entities of the UN system, particularly those participating in the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, to examine, in cooperation with the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to the implementation of the WSSD Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

85. In a resolution (57/192 of 18 December 2002) dealing with the **‘International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People’**, the Assembly recalled that the goal of the Decade is to strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as the environment, and that the theme of the Decade is “Indigenous people: partnership in action”. The Assembly also affirmed 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.
86. The Assembly adopted resolution 57/64 on the **‘Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control’** on 22 November, by a vote of 153 in favour to none against, with 5 abstentions. Reaffirming that international disarmament forums should take fully into account relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation and that all States should contribute fully to ensuring compliance with these norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties, the Assembly called upon States to adopt measures 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. The Secretary-General was requested to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.
