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QUESTION OF CONVENING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PROBLEMS OF HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Argentina, Mexico, Sweden, Turkey,
United States of America: Draft resolution

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the continuing and accelerating impairment of the quality of the human environment caused by such factors as air and water pollution, erosion, secondary effects of biocides, waste and noise,

Concerned with the consequent effects on the condition of man, his physical and mental well-being, his dignity and his enjoyment of basic human rights in developing as well as developed countries,

Convinced of the urgent need for intensified action, at the national and international level, in order to limit and, where possible, to eliminate the impairment of the human environment,

Convinced also that due attention to problems of the human environment is indispensable for sound economic and social development,

Bearing in mind the important work on some problems of the human environment at present being undertaken by organizations in the United Nations System, in particular the United Nations (including the ECE), ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, WMO, IMCO and IAEA, as referred to in the report of the Secretary-General on activities of United Nations Organizations and programmes relevant to the human environment (E/4553),

Aware of the important work being done on problems of the human environment by Governments as well as by national and international non-governmental organizations such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the International Biological Programme,

Noting furthermore with particular interest the arrangements for the Inter-Governmental Conference of Experts on the Scientific Basis for Rational Use and Conservation of the Resources of the Biosphere organized by UNESCO with the participation of the United Nations, FAO and WHO to be held in Paris in September 1968, as well as the decision of the Economic Commission for Europe to convene a meeting of governmental experts on problems relating to the environment in 1970 or 1971,

Bearing in mind the valuable reports on Environmental Pollution and its control (E/4457) prepared by WHO, and on Conservation and Rational Use of the Environment (E/4458) prepared by UNESCO and FAO, for the 44th session of the Council,

Desiring to encourage work in this field and to give it a common outlook and direction,

Believing it desirable to provide a framework for a comprehensive consideration of the problems of human environment within the United Nations in order to focus the attention of Governments and public opinion on the importance of the problem and also to identify those aspects of the problem that can only, or best, be solved through international co-operation and agreement,

Considering that these purposes would adequately be served by organizing a conference under the auspices of the United Nations in co-operation with the appropriate organizations in the United Nations System,

1. Recommends that the General Assembly, at its twenty-third session, consider ways and means to further the objectives set out above and, in particular, the desirability of convening a United Nations conference on the problems of the human environment, taking into consideration, i.a., the views expressed during the forty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Council and the results of the Inter-Governmental Conference of Experts on the Scientific Basis for Rational Use and Conservation of the Resources of the Biosphere,

2. Considers that, in order to assure the success of such a conference, should its convening be decided by the General Assembly, detailed and careful preparations are necessary and recommends to the General Assembly that such preparations be undertaken in the following manner:

- A. to request the Secretary-General, having obtained the views of the appropriate organizations in the United Nations System, including the regional economic commissions, and those of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, to submit to the Council a report containing suggestions as to:
 - (a) the programme of work for such a conference,
 - (b) alternative methods for adequate preparation for a conference and,
 - (c) the length of time necessary for adequate preparations,
- B. to request the Council to consider the report mentioned in paragraph A above and to make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly, including the question of time and place for the holding of a conference;
- 3. Recommends to the General Assembly to place the question of "The Problems of the Human Environment" on the agenda of its twenty-third session.