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

Argentina, Kuwait, Mexico, Morocco, 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, and other forms of soil deterioration, secondary effects of pesticides, waste and noise,

Concerned with the consequent effects thereof 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 and in order to protect and improve the natural surroundings in the interest of man,

Convinced also that due attention to problems of the human environment is essential 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 within the United Nations of the problems of the human environment in order to focus the attention of Governments and public opinion on the importance of this question and also to identify those aspects of it that can only, or best, be solved through international co-operation and agreement,

1. Recommends that the General Assembly, at its twenty-third session, consider ways and means to further the objectives set out above including, in particular, the desirability of convening a United Nations conference on problems of the human environment, taking into consideration, i.e., 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 a conference, should its convening be decided by the General Assembly, detailed and careful preparations would be necessary and recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, after obtaining the views of Governments and those of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, in co-operation with the

appropriate organizations in the United Nations system, including the Regional Economic Commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, to submit to the forty-seventh session of the Council a report about:

- (a) the scope and progress of work already being done on the main problems of the human environment by international and national organizations, at the inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental levels, and the principal areas which require international co-operation;
- (b) the areas which might with particular advantage be considered at an international conference on problems of the human environment and a suggested programme of work for a conference;
- (c) alternative methods for adequate preparations for a conference, and the length of time necessary for such preparations;
- (d) a possible time and place for a conference;
- (e) the possible range of financial implications for the United Nations of the holding of a conference,

3. Proposes to the General Assembly that it include in the agenda of its twenty-third session an item entitled "The Problems of the Human Environment".