

addressing the issues of sound management and enhancement of the resource base, furthering the promotion, accelerated development and transfer of environmentally sound technology, minimizing environmental dangers and merging environment and economics in decision-making in all countries, as well as taking cognizance of the interrelationship between people, resources, environment and development;

11. *Stresses* that sustainable and environmentally sound development requires changes in the unsustainable pattern of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries, and the development of environmentally sound technologies, and, in this context, stresses also the need to examine, with a view to making recommendations on effective modalities for favourable access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies, in particular to the developing countries, including on concessional and preferential terms, and on modalities for supporting all countries in their efforts to create and develop their endogenous technological capacities in the field of scientific research and development, as well as in the acquisition of relevant information, and, in this context, stresses further the need to explore the concept of assured access for developing countries to environmentally sound technologies, in its relation to proprietary rights, with a view to developing effective responses to the needs of developing countries in this area;

12. *Endorses* the views and suggestions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fifteenth session on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187, contained in the report of the Secretary-General,¹²¹ regards Governing Council decision 15/2 as a positive step towards a better understanding of the concept of sustainable and environmentally sound development and of the implications of the implementation of the concept for all countries, and invites Governments and the governing bodies of the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take them into account in their further efforts towards promoting and achieving sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries;

13. *Reaffirms* the need to provide new and additional financial resources to support developing countries in measures, *inter alia*, to identify, analyse, monitor, prevent and manage environmental problems, primarily at their sources, in accordance with their national development goals, objectives and plans, so as to ensure that their development priorities are not adversely affected;

14. *Stresses* the need for new and additional financial resources for measures aimed at solving major environmental problems of global concern, and especially to support those countries, in particular developing countries, for which the implementation of such measures would entail a special or abnormal burden, due, in particular, to their lack of financial resources, expertise and/or technical capacity;

15. *Reaffirms* the need for developed countries and relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to strengthen technical co-operation with the developing countries to assist them to develop and strengthen their endogenous capacity for identifying, analysing, monitoring, preventing and managing environmental problems in accordance with their national development plans, priorities and objectives;

16. *Reaffirms* also that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their environmental policies, and reaffirms further their responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to play their due role in preserving and protecting the global and regional environment in accordance with their capacities and specific responsibilities;

17. *Considers* that the regional follow-up conferences should contribute to a better understanding and a more concrete definition of the concept of sustainable and environmentally sound development and of the implications of the implementation of the concept, and should make important substantive contributions to the United Nations conference on environment and development in 1992;

18. *Invites* the preparatory committee for the conference to take duly into account the recommendations contained in the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development in the preparatory process for the conference, as well as recommendations for action by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and the views and suggestions expressed by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and other organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system on those matters;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare for submission to the preparatory committee for the conference, and to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic and Social Council, a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, for submission to the conference and to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic and Social Council, a new consolidated report on further substantive follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 by Governments and organizations of the United Nations system.

85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989

44/228. United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/196 of 20 December 1988 on a United Nations conference on environment and development,

Taking note of decision 15/3 of 25 May 1989 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme⁴⁷ on a United Nations conference on environment and development,

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/87 of 26 July 1989 on the convening of a United Nations conference on environment and development,

Taking note further of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/101 of 27 July 1989 on strengthening international co-operation on environment through the provision of additional financial resources to developing countries,

¹²¹ *Ibid.*, sects. II and III.

Recalling its resolutions 42/186 of 11 December 1987 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and 42/187 of 11 December 1987 on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development,¹¹⁹

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on environment and development,¹²²

Mindful of the views expressed by Governments in the debate at its forty-fourth session on the convening of a United Nations conference on environment and development,

Recalling the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,¹²³

Deeply concerned by the continuing deterioration of the state of the environment and the serious degradation of the global life-support systems, as well as by trends that, if allowed to continue, could disrupt the global ecological balance, jeopardize the life-sustaining qualities of the Earth and lead to an ecological catastrophe, and recognizing that decisive, urgent and global action is vital to protecting the ecological balance of the Earth,

Recognizing the importance for all countries of the protection and enhancement of the environment,

Recognizing also that the global character of environmental problems, including climate change, depletion of the ozone layer, transboundary air and water pollution, the contamination of the oceans and seas and degradation of land resources, including drought and desertification, necessitates action at all levels, including the global, regional and national levels, and the commitment and participation of all countries,

Gravely concerned that the major cause of the continuing deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries,

Stressing that poverty and environmental degradation are closely interrelated and that environmental protection in developing countries must, in this context, be viewed as an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it,

Recognizing that measures to be undertaken at the international level for the protection and enhancement of the environment must take fully into account the current imbalances in global patterns of production and consumption,

Affirming that the responsibility for containing, reducing and eliminating global environmental damage must be borne by the countries causing such damage, must be in relation to the damage caused and must be in accordance with their respective capabilities and responsibilities,

Recognizing the environmental impact of material remnants of war and the need for further international co-operation for their removal,

Stressing the importance for all countries of taking effective measures for the protection, restoration and enhancement of the environment in accordance, *inter alia*, with their respective capabilities, while at the same time acknowledging the efforts being made in all countries in this regard, including international co-operation between developed and developing countries,

Stressing the need for effective international co-operation in the areas of research, development and application of environmentally sound technologies,

Conscious of the crucial role of science and technology in the field of environmental protection and of the need of developing countries, in particular, for favourable access to environmentally sound technologies, processes, equipment and related research and expertise through international co-operation designed to further global efforts for environmental protection, including the use of innovative and effective means,

Recognizing that new and additional financial resources will have to be channelled to developing countries in order to ensure their full participation in global efforts for environmental protection,

I.

1. *Decides* to convene the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which shall be of two weeks' duration and shall have the highest possible level of participation, to coincide with World Environment Day, on 5 June 1992;

2. *Accepts with deep appreciation* the generous offer of the Government of Brazil to act as host to the Conference;

3. *Affirms* that the Conference should elaborate strategies and measures to halt and reverse the effects of environmental degradation in the context of increased national and international efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries;

4. *Affirms also* that the protection and enhancement of the environment are major issues that affect the well-being of peoples and economic development throughout the world;

5. *Affirms further* that the promotion of economic growth in developing countries is essential to address problems of environmental degradation;

6. *Affirms* the importance of a supportive international economic climate conducive to sustained economic growth and development in all countries for the protection and sound management of the environment;

7. *Reaffirms* that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the applicable principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their environmental policies, and also reaffirms their responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to play their due role in preserving and protecting the global and regional environment in accordance with their capacities and specific responsibilities;

8. *Affirms* the responsibility of States, in accordance with national legislation and applicable international law, for the damage to the environment and natural resources caused by activities within their jurisdiction or control through transboundary interference;

9. *Notes* that the largest part of the current emission of pollutants into the environment, including toxic and hazardous wastes, originates in developed countries, and therefore recognizes that those countries have the main responsibility for combating such pollution;

10. *Stresses* that large industrial enterprises, including transnational corporations, are frequently the repositories of scarce technical skills for the preservation and enhancement of the environment, that they conduct activities in sectors that have an impact on the environment and, to that extent, have specific responsibilities and that, in this

¹²² A/44/256-E/1989/66 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2.

¹²³ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. I.

context, efforts need to be encouraged and mobilized to protect and enhance the environment in all countries;

11. *Reaffirms* that the serious external indebtedness of developing countries and other countries with serious debt-servicing problems has to be addressed in an efficient and urgent manner in order to enable those countries to contribute fully and in accordance with their capacities and responsibilities to global efforts to protect and enhance the environment;

12. *Affirms* that, in the light of the foregoing, the following environmental issues, which are not listed in any particular order of priority, are among those of major concern in maintaining the quality of the Earth's environment and especially in achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development in all countries:

(a) Protection of the atmosphere by combating climate change, depletion of the ozone layer and transboundary air pollution;

(b) Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources;

(c) Protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources;

(d) Protection and management of land resources by, *inter alia*, combating deforestation, desertification and drought;

(e) Conservation of biological diversity;

(f) Environmentally sound management of biotechnology;

(g) Environmentally sound management of wastes, particularly hazardous wastes, and of toxic chemicals, as well as prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes;

(h) Improvement of the living and working environment of the poor in urban slums and rural areas, through the eradication of poverty by, *inter alia*, implementing integrated rural and urban development programmes, as well as taking other appropriate measures at all levels necessary to stem the degradation of the environment;

(i) Protection of human health conditions and improvement of the quality of life;

13. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen international co-operation for the management of the environment to ensure its protection and enhancement and the need to explore the issue of benefits derived from activities, including research and development, related to the protection and development of biological diversity;

14. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen international co-operation, particularly between developed and developing countries, in research and development and the utilization of environmentally sound technologies;

15. *Decides* that the Conference, in addressing environmental issues in the developmental context, should have the following objectives:

(a) To examine the state of the environment and changes that have occurred since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in 1972, and since the adoption of such international agreements as the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, adopted on 22 March 1985, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, adopted on 16 September 1987, taking into account the actions taken by all countries and intergovernmental organizations to protect and enhance the environment;

(b) To identify strategies to be co-ordinated regionally and globally, as appropriate, for concerted action to deal with major environmental issues in the socio-economic development processes of all countries within a particular time-frame;

(c) To recommend measures to be taken at the national and international levels to protect and enhance the environment, taking into account the specific needs of developing countries, through the development and implementation of policies for sustainable and environmentally sound development with special emphasis on incorporating environmental concerns in the economic and social development process and of various sectoral policies and through, *inter alia*, preventive action at the sources of environmental degradation, clearly identifying the sources of such degradation and appropriate remedial measures, in all countries;

(d) To promote the further development of international environmental law, taking into account the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,¹²³ as well as the special needs and concerns of the developing countries, and to examine in this context the feasibility of elaborating general rights and obligations of States, as appropriate, in the field of the environment, and taking into account relevant existing international legal instruments;

(e) To examine ways and means further to improve co-operation in the field of protection and enhancement of the environment between neighbouring countries, with a view to eliminating adverse environmental effects;

(f) To examine strategies for national and international action with a view to arriving at specific agreements and commitments by Governments for defined activities to deal with major environmental issues in order to restore the global ecological balance and to prevent further deterioration of the environment, taking into account the fact that the largest part of the current emission of pollutants into the environment, including toxic and hazardous wastes, originates in developed countries, and therefore recognizing that those countries have the main responsibility for combating such pollution;

(g) To accord high priority to drought and desertification control and to consider all means necessary, including financial, scientific and technological resources, to halt and reverse the process of desertification with a view to preserving the ecological balance of the planet;

(h) To examine the relationship between environmental degradation and the international economic environment, with a view to ensuring a more integrated approach to problems of environment and development in relevant international forums without introducing new forms of conditionality;

(i) To examine strategies for national and international action with a view to arriving at specific agreements and commitments by Governments and by intergovernmental organizations for defined activities to promote a supportive international economic climate conducive to sustained and environmentally sound development in all countries, with a view to combating poverty and improving the quality of life, and bearing in mind that the incorporation of environmental concerns and considerations in development planning and policies should not be used to introduce new forms of conditionality in aid or in development financing and should not serve as a pretext for creating unjustified barriers to trade;

(j) To identify ways and means of providing new and additional financial resources, particularly to developing countries, for environmentally sound development pro-

in section IV of its decision 15/1 and the list of issues within those areas, which are not listed in any particular order of priority, to which the Programme should give special attention;⁴⁷

7. *Takes note* of Governing Council decision 15/4 of 26 May 1989⁴⁷ and supports the decision of the Council to hold a special session in 1990 of three days' duration at the same location as, and in conjunction with, the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which, at its organizational session, should bear this issue in mind with a view to achieving an effective preparatory process for the Conference; this special session should deal with the elaboration of and the process of making and implementing decisions on priority environmental issues, in particular ways and means of enhancing the role of the Programme within the United Nations system in addressing those issues;

8. *Reaffirms* the need to provide new and additional financial resources to support developing countries in identifying, analysing, monitoring, preventing and managing environmental problems primarily at their source, in accordance with their national development goals, objectives and plans, so as to ensure that their development priorities are not adversely affected;

9. *Stresses* the need for new and additional financial resources for measures aimed at solving major environmental problems of global concern, and especially to support those countries, in particular developing countries, for whom the implementation of such measures would entail a special or abnormal burden, due, in particular, to their lack of financial resources, expertise and/or technical capacity;

10. *Expresses its satisfaction* at indications that the flow of resources to the Environment Fund is increasing in real terms, endorses the annual target of a minimum of one hundred million United States dollars in contributions by the year 1992, taking into account the increasing tasks of the Programme, and calls upon all Governments to contribute or increase their contributions to the Fund by at least 35 per cent per annum from the 1 January 1989 level to enable that target to be met by 1992;

11. *Endorses* the views and suggestions of the Governing Council as expressed in its decision 15/2 of 26 May 1989⁴⁷ on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987 as a positive step towards a better understanding of the concept of sustainable and environmentally sound development by all countries;

12. *Takes note* of the recommendation made by the Governing Council in its decision 15/5 of 25 May 1989⁴⁷ and stresses that sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries should become one of the central guiding principles in the international development strategy being elaborated for the fourth United Nations development decade;

13. *Concurs* with Governing Council decision 15/14 of 25 May 1989⁴⁷ on the clearing-house function, in which it is considered that the Programme should play a more vigorous role in supporting developing countries, upon their request:

(a) To establish and strengthen their institutions and professional capacities to integrate environmental considerations into their development policies and planning;

(b) To formulate and initiate programmes and activities for dealing with their most serious environmental problems;

(c) To formulate and participate in action plans for the common management of eco-systems and critical environmental problems at the national, regional and global levels;

14. *Stresses* that sustainable and environmentally sound development requires changes in the unsustainable pattern of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries, and the development of environmentally sound technologies, and, in this context, stresses also the need to examine, with a view to making recommendations, effective modalities for favourable access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies, in particular to the developing countries, including on concessional and preferential terms, and modalities for supporting all countries in their efforts to create and develop their endogenous technological capacities in the field of scientific research and development, as well as in the acquisition of relevant information, and, in this context, stresses further the need to explore the concept of assured access for developing countries to environmentally sound technologies, in its relation to proprietary rights, with a view to developing effective responses to the needs of developing countries in this area;

15. *Takes note* of Governing Council decision 15/24 of 25 May 1989⁴⁷ on sustainable agriculture, and calls upon the Governing Council to pay special attention to the implementation thereof;

16. *Reaffirms* the urgent need for Governments, multilateral organizations and governmental and non-governmental financial institutions to take into account in their policies, decision-making processes and financial mechanisms the relationship between the foreign debt and the ability of developing countries to strengthen their capacity to address the critical environmental issues fundamental to development and protection of the environment;

17. *Urges* the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to take the necessary steps to ensure the participation of developing countries in scientific and policy aspects of its work, and calls upon the international community, in particular the developed countries, to consider contributing generously to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Trust Fund with a view to financing the participation of experts designated by Governments of the developing countries in all the meetings of the Intergovernmental Panel, including those of its working groups and sub-groups;

18. *Supports* the request made by the Governing Council, in its decision 15/36 of 25 May 1989,⁴⁷ that the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in co-operation with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, begin preparations for negotiations on a framework convention on climate, taking into account the work of the Intergovernmental Panel and its interim report, as well as the results achieved at international meetings on the subject, including the Second World Climate Conference, and recommends that such negotiations begin as soon as possible after the adoption of the interim report of the Intergovernmental Panel and that the General Assembly at an early date during its forty-fifth session take a decision recommending ways and means and modalities for further pursuing these negotiations, taking into account the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in 1992;

19. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made in the protection of the ozone layer and urges all States to co-operate with the Executive Director of the United Nations

Environment Programme in the process of strengthening the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, adopted on 16 September 1987, in the light of the Helsinki Declaration on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, adopted on 2 May 1989,⁵³ and emphasizes the importance of taking into account the special needs and requirements of developing countries and developing appropriate funding mechanisms in order to enable all countries, in particular developing countries, to participate effectively in the revised Protocol;

20. *Notes* the adoption, on 22 March 1989, of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal,¹¹⁸ and calls upon all States to consider signing the Convention without prejudice to the final position to be adopted by regional organizations in this regard and to strengthen their co-operation in problem areas within the scope of the Convention;

21. *Supports* Governing Council decision 15/23 of 25 May 1989⁴⁷ on desertification, in which the Council, *inter alia*, invites donor Governments and intergovernmental bodies to accord high priority in their bilateral and multilateral assistance activities to national programmes for combating desertification and for the rehabilitation of land resources;

22. *Considers* the conservation and utilization of biological diversity to be a priority issue, an important element of ecological balance and a source of benefit to mankind, and welcomes Governing Council decision 15/34 of 25 May 1989;⁴⁷

23. *Notes* the consideration given by the Governing Council in its decision 15/10 of 25 May 1989⁴⁷ to the proposed establishment of a United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance and takes note of the information provided by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the preliminary results of his consultations regarding the views expressed by Governments and organizations on this matter, bearing in mind the mandates of the Programme, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as other relevant United Nations specialized agencies and bodies;

24. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the impetus given to addressing environmental concerns through meetings at the regional level, and calls on the Programme and other relevant organizations to continue to play an effective role in this regard.

85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989

44/230. Target for World Food Programme pledges for the period 1991-1992

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of its resolution 2095 (XX) of 20 December 1965 to the effect that the World Food Programme is to be reviewed before each pledging conference,

Recalling also the provisions of paragraph 4 of its resolution 42/164 of 11 December 1987 stipulating that, subject to the review provided for in its resolution 2095 (XX), the next pledging conference, at which Governments and appropriate donor organizations should be invited to pledge contributions for 1991 and 1992, with a view to reaching such a target as may then be recommended by the General Assembly and by the Conference of the Food

and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, should be convened at the latest early in 1990,

Noting that the Programme was reviewed by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the World Food Programme at its twenty-seventh session and by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1989,

Having considered Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/121 of 28 July 1989, and the recommendation of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes,

Recognizing the value of and continuing need for multilateral food aid as provided by the World Food Programme, both as a form of capital investment and for meeting emergency food needs,

1. *Establishes* for the period 1991-1992 a target for voluntary contributions to the World Food Programme of 1.5 billion United States dollars, of which not less than one third should be in cash and/or services, and expresses the hope that those resources will be substantially augmented by additional contributions from other sources in view of the prospective volume of sound project requests and the capacity of the Programme to operate at a higher level;

2. *Urges* States Members of the United Nations and members and associate members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and appropriate donor organizations to make every effort to ensure that the target is fully attained;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to convene a pledging conference for this purpose at United Nations Headquarters early in 1990.

85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989

44/231. Report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/165

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/165 of 11 December 1987, as adopted, on international economic security,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question,¹²⁶

Emphasizing the role of the United Nations and the interest of its Member States in strengthening international co-operation for ensuring sustained development, particularly in the developing countries, and balanced growth in the world economy,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work undertaken by the Secretary-General on the subject;

2. *Recognizes* that the discussions that have taken place on the subject have contributed to a growing common understanding of economic interdependence and have played a useful role in the continuing efforts to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of activities of the United Nations in the economic field and strengthen multilateral co-operation in international economic affairs to the benefit of all countries, especially developing countries;

3. *Emphasizes* that a universal, constructive and comprehensive dialogue aimed at revitalizing economic growth and development, in particular the development of developing countries, is essential if effective and co-

¹²⁶ A/44/217-E/1989/56.