



General Assembly

* (N1) 1991 A 79 *

DEC 20 1991

UNION COLLECTION

Distr.
GENERALA/46/729
13 December 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 79PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE
GENERATIONS OF MANKINDReport of the Second CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Martin RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" and to allocate it to the Second Committee (see A/C.2/46/1).
2. The Committee considered the item at its 43rd to 47th, 52nd and 58th meetings, on 18, 19 and 27 November and 11 December 1991. An account of the Committee's general discussion of the item, held in conjunction with the general discussion on the item "United Nations Conference on Environment and Development", is contained in the relevant summary records (see A/C.2/46/SR.43-47). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 9th meetings, from 1 to 4 October (A/C.2/46/SR.2-9).
3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Letter dated 14 June 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Communiqué issued on 14 May 1991 in Barbados by the Seventeenth meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Caribbean Community, which took place in Barbados on 13 and 14 May 1991 (A/46/264);

(b) Letter dated 26 June 1991 from the Permanent Representatives of Bulgaria and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the Joint Communiqué dated 13 April 1991 issued by the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Chairman of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria (A/46/273);

(c) Letter dated 2 July 1991 from the representatives of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the Declaration by participants in the third Meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the USSR and Union Republics concerning United Nations efforts to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, adopted in Minsk, on 28 June 1991 (A/46/283-E/1991/114);

(d) Letter dated 1 August 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saint Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General forwarding the Final Communiqué of the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held at Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 2 to 4 July 1991 (A/46/336);

(e) Letter dated 5 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final communiqué of the twenty-second South Pacific Forum, held at Palikir, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, on 29 and 30 July 1991 (A/46/344);

(f) Letter dated 1 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the appeal by the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the European Parliament (A/46/345);

(g) Letter dated 19 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting texts of documents adopted by the twentieth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Istanbul from 4 to 8 August 1991 (A/46/486);

(h) Letter dated 27 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/501/Rev.1);

(i) Letter dated 1 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77 (A/46/520);

(j) Letter dated 23 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General requesting him to circulate the resolutions adopted by the 86th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Santiago, Chile, from 7 to 12 October 1991 (A/46/598);

(k) Report of the Secretary-General on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (A/46/602);

(l) Letter dated 11 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Arab Declaration on Environment and Development and Future Perspectives issued by the Arab Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, Cairo, 10 to 15 September 1991 (A/46/632);

(m) Letter dated 8 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Commonwealth Group of Experts entitled "Change for the better: global change and economic development", endorsed by the Meeting of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth held in Harare, 16-22 October 1991 (A/C.2/46/12 and Add.1).

4. At the 43rd meeting, on 18 November, the Executive Director and Secretary of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change made an introductory statement. A statement was also made by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change (see A/C.2/46/SR.43).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.80

5. At the 52nd meeting, on 27 November, the representative of Ghana, speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are also members of the Group of 77, and China, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.80) entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" and orally revised operative paragraph 6 thereof by adding the words "and requests the Secretary-General to make adequate arrangements for 1992".

6. A statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.80, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, was circulated in document A/C.2/46/L.110.

7. At the 58th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ioan Barac (Romania), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution, and made the following oral revisions:

(a) In operative paragraph 2, insert the words "on climate change, containing appropriate commitments and any related legal instruments as may be agreed upon", after the words "framework convention";

(b) The words "unless the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee decides otherwise at its fifth session" were added at the end of operative paragraph 3;

(c) A new paragraph 4 was added after operative paragraph 3, which read as follows:

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements for the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and its Ad Hoc Secretariat for the rest of 1992 in the light of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the report by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on possible future steps in the field of climate change;"

(d) In renumbered operative paragraph 5, the words "existing and new" were replaced by the words "present and potential";

(e) In renumbered operative paragraph 9, the words "the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development regarding the framework convention on climate change" were replaced by the words "the negotiations on the framework convention on climate change and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development".

8. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Ghana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are also members of the Group of 77), the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are also members of the European Community) and Nigeria (see A/C.2/46/SR.58).

9. Following a statement of clarification by the Secretary of the Committee on the financial implications of operative paragraph 3, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Tunisia, France, Ghana and the United States of America (see A/C.2/46/SR.58).

10. Following a request by the sponsors, the Chairman informed the Committee that draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.80, as orally revised, was being presented in his name.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.80, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 13).

12. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are also members of the European Community), the United States of America, Austria, Kenya, Australia, New Zealand and Japan (see A/C.2/46/SR.58).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

13. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection of global climate for present and future
generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988 and 44/207 of 22 December 1989, in which it recognized climate change as a common concern of mankind, and resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, by which it established a single intergovernmental negotiating process for the preparation of a framework convention on climate change,

Reiterating the objective that an effective framework convention, containing appropriate commitments, and any related legal instruments as might be agreed upon should be completed prior to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and opened for signature during that Conference in June 1992,

Taking note of the relevant decisions taken in 1991 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Eleventh World Meteorological Congress, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and other intergovernmental bodies,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General concerning the progress of the negotiations for a framework convention on climate change, 1/

1. Takes note with appreciation of the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change at its first, second and third sessions; 2/

2. Urges the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to expedite and successfully complete the negotiations as soon as possible, and to adopt the framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments and any related legal instruments as may be agreed upon in time for it to be opened for signature during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

3. Decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee should hold a fifth session at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 18 to 28 February 1992, with the possibility of the Committee holding a short

1/ A/46/602.

2/ See A/AC.237/6, A/AC.237/9 and A/AC.237/12.

resumed session in New York in April 1992 unless the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee decides otherwise at its fifth session;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements for the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and its ad hoc secretariat for the rest of 1992 in the light of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the report by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on possible future steps in the field of climate change;

5. Also takes note with appreciation of the contributions made to the special voluntary fund, established in accordance with paragraph 10 of its resolution 45/212 to ensure that developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, as well as small island developing countries, are able to participate fully and effectively in the negotiating process, and invites present and potential contributors to provide the additional and timely funding needed to ensure adequate support for the participation of developing countries in the negotiating process in 1992;

6. Further takes note with appreciation of the initial contributions made to the trust fund for the negotiating process, established in accordance with paragraph 20 of its resolution 45/212, and invites present and new contributors to provide additional funding in 1992;

7. Takes note of the arrangements made by the Secretary-General, as well as the welcome support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Meteorological Organization and by Governments, for the operation of the ad hoc secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee during 1991;

8. Reiterates its request to the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, on behalf of the Committee, to submit a report to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 on the outcome of the negotiations, as well as on possible future steps in the field of climate change;

9. Requests the Secretary-General, in the light of the outcome of the negotiations on the framework convention on climate change and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution and on possible future requirements in relation to climate change;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session an item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".
