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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION:
DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Mauritania: draft resolution

Plan of action to combat desertification

A

Implementation and financing of the Plan of Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977, by which it approved the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 1/

Recalling also its resolutions 33/89 of 15 December 1978, 34/184 of 18 December 1979, 36/191 of 17 December 1981, 37/220 of 20 December 1982, 38/163 of 19 December 1983, 39/217 of 18 December 1984 and 40/198 of 17 December 1985, dealing with the implementation and financing of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Recalling further its resolution S-13/2 of 1 June 1986, by which it adopted the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, 2/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/40/25).

2/ Ibid., Thirteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 2 (A/S-13/16).

Noting with dismay and grave concern the continuing spread and intensification of desertification in developing countries, especially in Africa, and the unprecedented human suffering, economic losses and social disruption caused by this phenomenon,

Recognizing that problems such as desertification affect all countries through multiplier effects such as world aid and trade flows, food shortages and periodic famines, political instability and, most of all, the adverse effects on resources and world recovery,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 3/ and the notes of the Secretary-General, 4/

Having considered also the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its fourteenth session, 5/ and decision 14/15 A of 18 June 1987 of the Governing Council on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 6/

1. Takes note of decision 14/15 A of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;
2. Shares the concern of the Governing Council over the slow implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;
3. Urges Governments, programmes, organs and organizations of the United Nations system, multilateral development assistance institutions, non-governmental organizations, private foundations and research institutes to take the necessary decisions for the mobilization of the funds required before the desertification process destroys other arable land and reduces to nothing the human efforts to halt it;
4. Urges the international community to intensify its efforts in combating desertification, to accord the highest priority to actions recommended in the Plan of Action and to increase its assistance to the countries concerned with a view to the implementation of their national and regional programmes aimed at desertification control;
5. Notes the significant role that non-governmental organizations are continuing to play in the anti-desertification efforts and calls upon Governments and organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies to explore all opportunities of involving them more in this effort;

3/ A/42/501.

4/ A/42/635, A/C.2/42/L.2, A/C.2/42/L.10.

5/ Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/42/25).

6/ Ibid., annex I.

6. Endorses once more the Governing Council's invitation to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to consult with the principal international organizations which are funding desertification-control activities in order to ascertain how the Programme can facilitate funding activities, and to recommend measures to enhance co-operation in this field;

7. Urges Governments of countries affected by desertification to accord sustained priority to medium-term and long-term strategies and programmes for combating desertification and to ensure that these are smoothly integrated with their national development plans and the regional co-operative programmes to curb the spread of environmental degradation;

8. Takes note of the measures approved by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to enhance the work of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification and calls upon all members of the Working Group to intensify their joint efforts for the effective implementation of the Plan of Action;

9. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action;

10. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the financing of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

11. Notes with regret the dearth of reactions and replies on the measures for providing additional resources needed for financing the Plan of Action recommended in the various reports prepared by the high-level financial experts convened by the Executive Director in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/172; 7/

12. Considers that the expert studies deserve further consideration and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take due account of them under his responsibility with respect to the implementation of the Plan of Action, as well as within the framework of the mandate of the Consultative Group on Desertification Control.

B

Effective implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions on the matter and in particular its resolution S-13/2 of 1 June 1986, by which it approved the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990,

7/ UNEP/GC.6/9/Add.1, A/35/396, A/36/141.

Noting decision 14/15 B of 18 June 1987 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action,

Noting also the appropriate decisions of the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of the Plan of Action in the Sudano-Sahelian region,

Considering the report of the Secretary-General concerning his activities in respect of the progress made in implementing the United Nations Programme of Action 1986-1990,

Considering also the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification; 8/

2. Notes with grave concern:

(a) The scope and complexity of the damage caused by desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region;

(b) That insufficient financial resources continue to be a serious constraint in combating desertification;

(c) That the struggle against desertification requires financial and human resources beyond the means of the affected countries;

3. Notes also the efforts that the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office has made in the face of these obstacles in assisting, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Governments of the countries of the region in combating desertification, under a joint venture between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme;

4. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for the sustained and co-ordinated manner in which they have continued to develop the joint venture through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office;

5. Recommends the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to continue and increase their support for the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in order to make it more capable of responding adequately to the pressing needs of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian and adjacent regions;

8/ UNEP/GC.13/7/Add.1.

6. Expresses its gratitude to the Governments, in particular those of Denmark, Finland, Italy and the Netherlands, and to all the organizations and foundations that have contribute to the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

7. Draws the attention of the international community to the pressing need to increase the efforts to implement the Plan of Action in the Sudano-Sahelian region and urges it to contribute to this implementation through appropriate means, including the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian activities, as well as to respond favourably to requests for assistance from the Governments of the countries of the region most affected;

8. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action, as part of its report on part A of this resolution;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the two parts of this resolution.
