

Nations Environment Programme, a brief progress report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session.

2321st plenary meeting
16 December 1974

3326 (XXIX). Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2849 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 and 2994 (XXVII), 2997 (XXVII), 3000 (XXVII) and 3002 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972,

Bearing in mind its resolution 3201 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and its resolution 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,

Reaffirming that both aspects of man's environment, the natural and the man-made, are vital to his well-being and to the exercise of basic human rights,

Further reaffirming that the protection, preservation and enhancement of the environment for present and future generations is the responsibility of all States,

Conscious that pollution and the degradation and exhaustion of natural resources are essential problems of the environment,

Concerned about the environmental impact of the irrational and wasteful exploitation and consumption of natural resources, particularly those of the developing countries, and about the fact that such exploitation and consumption represents a threat to these countries in the exercise of their permanent sovereignty over their natural resources,

Convinced of the need for and urgency of attaining rational and optimal exploitation and consumption of natural resources, of avoiding their waste and of controlling pollution, intensifying, to that end, international co-operation within the framework of collective ecological security,

Fully conscious of the importance and universality of environmental problems, including, *inter alia*, those pertaining to under-development, inequity and social injustice, and of the fact that, in order to attain an urgent and effective solution to all such problems, national measures as well as measures of co-operation at the international level should be adopted,

Reaffirming the interdisciplinary and intersectoral nature and approach of the United Nations Environment Programme, and recognizing the benefits that the implementation of such an approach may provide for the solution of the problems of international co-operation on the environment that affect Member States, particularly developing countries,

Taking note of the Cocoyoc Declaration,⁵⁹ adopted by the Symposium on Patterns of Resource Use, Environment and Development Strategies, held under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, at Cocoyoc, Mexico, from 8 to 12 October 1974,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its second session⁶⁰ and being convinced of the need to continue to strengthen the Programme's activities and its co-ordinating functions,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its second session and of its adopted work programme;

2. Requests the United Nations Environment Programme:

(a) To conduct its activities, in its field of competence, in line with the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order;

(b) To adopt measures for intensifying efforts to facilitate the participation of institutions of developing countries in the preparation, development and implementation of the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, taking fully into account the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources and on the basis of close co-operation and continuous consultations with all States:

(a) To ensure that, in the design, implementation and development of the Global Environment Monitoring System, on the basis of voluntary participation of Member States, its objective of detecting, with enough anticipation, impending changes, whether man-made or natural, occurring in any part of the environment and threatening to cause significant damage to man's well-being is fully taken into account, in order to provide Governments with a basis for immediate preventive action;

(b) To give attention, when considering the report on the International Referral System to be submitted to it by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, at its third session, to the needs especially of developing countries for information on the environment and, in particular, to such needs of countries affected by problems of degradation and depletion of their natural resources with respect to which the timely exchange and provision of adequate information, through the International Referral System, would facilitate the adoption of measures for their solution;

4. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in keeping with the goals and objectives of the Programme:

(a) To prepare a report on the environmental impact resulting from the irrational and wasteful use of natural resources, as reflected in the current methods and forms of production and consumption, and to present it to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fourth session;

(b) To prepare the new formulation of the programme activities in the priority subject areas of trade, economics, technology and transfer of technology, which is to be submitted to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its third session, by bringing these activities into line with the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, in its field of competence;

⁵⁹ A/C.2/292.

⁶⁰ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/9625).

(c) To prepare, in consultation with other organizations of the United Nations system, a study to include recommendations for putting into practice, at the earliest possible time, the concept of ecodevelopment as a planning method enabling developing countries to achieve accelerated and self-sustained development, taking into account, *inter alia*, their economic, political, social, geographical, ecological and regional conditions, for submission to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fourth session;

(d) To draw the attention of Governments to the "catalytic role" of the United Nations Environment Programme approved by the Governing Council at its second session,⁶¹ as an effective means for the Programme to provide adequate solutions, particularly in the short term, to problems affecting a country or group of countries of one region or of different regions, and to submit a report to the Governing Council at its fourth session on the problems with respect to which this role could be utilized, principally for the benefit of developing countries;

(e) To accelerate consultations with the World Meteorological Organization and with jurists, scientists and other experts for the purpose of developing a set of general principles and operative guidelines on studies for man-induced weather modification and related environmental phenomena, including their operational and research aspects, and to report to the Governing Council on the subject at its fourth session;

(f) To submit to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, at its third session, a preliminary report on the legal aspects to which the organizations in the United Nations system have given attention, within the framework of their activities, and which may contribute to the identification, formulation and development of principles of international environmental law;

(g) To give equal priority in the implementation and development of the Global Environment Monitoring System to those environmental parameters different from pollutants which will facilitate the solution or prevention of environmental problems that affect or may affect principally developing countries;

(h) To bring the International Referral System to the attention of Member States as a means of enabling the Programme to effect the timely exchange and provision of information among themselves, or with the intergovernmental and private organizations, for the solution of environmental problems affecting them;

(i) To consult the Governments of developing countries regarding the problems and matters related to the environment on which they would be interested in receiving training and technical assistance, and to submit a report, with the replies received, to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fourth session, together with a summary of the experience achieved thus far in this area, in order to formulate a training and assistance programme based on the specific needs of that group of countries;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of co-ordination and active co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other organizations of the United Nations system in their activities

in order to ensure effective attention and action with regard to the environmental needs and problems of Member States, especially developing countries, as requested by them.

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3327 (XXIX). Establishment of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2999 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, in which it endorsed in principle the establishment of an international fund or financial institution for the purpose envisaged in recommendation 17 of the Action Plan for the Human Environment,⁶²

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of an international fund or financial institution for human settlements,⁶³

Noting decision 16 (II) of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme of 21 March 1974,⁶⁴ in which the Governing Council recommended to the General Assembly the establishment of a voluntary international habitat and human settlements foundation as from 1 January 1975,

Noting also Economic and Social Council resolution 1882 (LVII) of 31 July 1974, in which the Council recommended that the General Assembly should establish an international foundation for human habitat management and environmental design and improvement of human settlements, in accordance with decision 16 (II) of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Decides that an international institution for human habitat management and environmental design and improvement of human settlements, to be called the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, be established as from 1 January 1975 in accordance with the operative part of the draft resolution contained in decision 16 A (II) of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, which is reproduced in the annex to the present resolution.

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ANNEX

Operative part of the draft resolution contained in decision 16 A (II) of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

...

1. *Decides* that a voluntary international habitat and human settlements foundation⁶⁵ be established as from 1 January 1975 in accordance with the provisions set forth below:

⁶² See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. II, sect. B.

⁶³ A/9575.

⁶⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/9625), annex I.*

⁶⁵ Now called "United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation".

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, annex I, decision 5 (II) of 21 March 1974.