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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
CHAPTER XVI
INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

* The present document is a mimeographed version of chapter XVI of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1981. The full report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth session, Supplement No. 3 (A/36/3/Rev.1).

1. The Economic and Social Council considered international co-operation on the environment at its second regular session of 1981 under agenda item 11.

2. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization concerning problems relating to marine pollution (A/36/233);

(b) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme entitled "The United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy" (E/1981/85);

(c) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region (E/1981/C.1/L.6);

(d) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on marine pollution (E/1981/C.1/L.7);

(e) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its ninth session (UNEP/GC.9/15 and Corr.1). 1/

3. At its 19th meeting, on 8 May 1981, the Council allocated the item to the First (Economic) Committee, which considered it at the 6th to 8th, 12th, 13th and 17th meetings, on 6 to 8, 13, 14, and 21 July 1981. For the report of the Committee on this item, see document E/1981/109.

ACTION BY THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

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

4. At its 12th meeting, the Committee considered a draft resolution entitled "Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification", which was sponsored by Djibouti, 2/ Egypt, 2/ France, Ghana, Iraq, Morocco, the Netherlands, 2/ Senegal, Somalia, 2/ the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania 2/ and Yugoslavia. The draft resolution was orally revised and subsequently, in the light of informal consultations, it was orally amended. 3/

1/ For the printed text, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/36/25).

2/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

3/ For particulars of the revisions and the amendment, see the report of the Committee on this item (E/1981/109).

5. At its 17th meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised and amended, and submitted it to the Council as draft resolution I. For action by the Council, see paragraph 8 below.

International co-operation on the environment

6. At its 13th meeting, the Committee considered a draft resolution entitled "International co-operation on the environment", sponsored by Argentina, Denmark, India, Kenya, the Sudan and Sweden. 2/ Subsequently, in the light of informal consultations, the draft resolution was orally revised and amended.

7. At its 17th meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised and amended, and submitted it to the Council as draft resolution II. For action by the Council, see paragraph 8 below.

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

8. At its 41st meeting, on 24 July 1981, the Council considered the draft resolutions recommended by the Committee in its report (E/1981/109, para. 10) and adopted them. For the final texts, see the annex below, Council resolutions 1981/72 and 1981/73.

9. Statements were made by the representatives of Brazil and the Federal Republic of Germany (see E/1981/SR.41).

ANNEX

Resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council
under agenda item 11 a/

Resolution 1981/72. Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian
region of the Plan of Action to Combat
Desertification

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, particularly Assembly resolutions 32/172 of 19 December 1977, 34/187 of 18 December 1979 and 35/72 of 5 December 1980, and Council resolution 1980/52 of 23 July 1980,

Recalling also decision 9/22 of 26 May 1981 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, b/ and decision 81/4 of 19 June 1981 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, c/

Reiterating its concern over the seriousness of desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region and the persistent critical situation resulting from it, which hampers the economic and social development of the countries of the region,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, d/ and the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its ninth session, e/

1. Notes with appreciation the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 33/88 of 15 December 1978, 34/187 and 35/72, and transmits it

a/ A compilation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council in 1981 will be issued as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplements Nos. 1, 1A and 1B (E/1981/81 and Add.1 and 2).

b/ See UNEP/GC.9/15 and Corr.1, annex I; for the final text, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/36/25).

c/ See E/1981/61, annex I; for the final text, see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplement No. 11 (E/1981/61/Rev.1),

d/ E/1981/C.1/L.6.

e/ UNEP/GC.9/15 and Corr.1; for the final text, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/36/25).

to the General Assembly for consideration, noting with satisfaction the decision of the Governing Council to include Benin among the countries eligible to receive assistance through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office; f/

2. Expresses its satisfaction at the progress made by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, in assisting the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification; g/

3. Welcomes the decisions of the Governing Councils of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme on the further continuation of the joint venture of the two Programmes aimed at ensuring the timely and effective provision of assistance to the group of designated countries by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, in combating desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region;

4. Expresses its gratitude to the Governments, agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and other organizations that have contributed to the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

5. Urges all Governments, organizations, organs and other bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and other organizations, to intensify their assistance either bilaterally or through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office or any other intermediary, in response to the priority requirements of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region;

6. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to report annually on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

41st plenary meeting
24 July 1981

Resolution 1981/73. International co-operation on
the environment

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980 on the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Reaffirming the need for further international co-operation in the field of the environment and that environmental considerations should be viewed in the context of national plans and priorities and development objectives of all countries, in particular the developing countries,

f/ See UNEP/GC.9/15 and Corr.1, annex I, decision 9/22 B.

g/ A/CONF.74/36, chap. I.

Having regard to General Assembly resolution 35/74 of 5 December 1980, in which the General Assembly decided, inter alia, to convene, in 1982, a session of a special character of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its ninth session, h/ the note by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work on the interrelationships between resources, environment, people and development, i/ prepared on the basis of the recommendations of a high-level group of experts, as well as the reports of the Governing Council concerning the contribution of the United Nations to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, j/ and on marine pollution, k/

1. Takes note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its ninth session;

2. Also takes note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environmental Programme concerning the contribution of the Programme to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, submitted in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/49 of 23 July 1980; supports the appeal of the Governing Council to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy that the Conference should give sufficient emphasis and attach high priority to uses of new and renewable energy sources which would make it possible to tackle the major problems of fuel wood; l/ invites the Conference to give serious consideration to the environmental effects of the production and use of various renewable sources of energy, and considers that the Programme should have an active role in the follow-up to the Conference, as regards the relationship between new and renewable sources of energy and the environment;

3. Notes with appreciation the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on marine pollution and the report of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization on the same subject, m/ submitted in pursuance of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 34/183 of 18 December 1979, and transmits them to the General Assembly for consideration;

h/ UNEP/GC.9/15 and Corr.1; for the final text, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/36/25).

i/ UNEP/GC.9/2/Add.4.

j/ E/1981/85.

k/ E/1981/C.1/L.7.

l/ See UNEP/GC.9/15 and Corr.1, annex I, decision 9/7.

m/ See A/36/233.

4. Calls upon the United Nations Environment Programme to play its role fully in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and stresses the need for all Governments and United Nations agencies to take environmental considerations fully into account when participating in negotiations and conferences organized by the United Nations on subjects other than environmental ones, such as the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

5. Endorses, in principle, as recommended by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, n/ the proposals made by the high-level group of experts with regard to the programme of work on the interrelationships between environment, resources, people, and development o/ and the important role that the Programme should assume in this regard consistent with its mandate, invites the General Assembly to request the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to provide for the implementation of those proposals within the context of the programme of work to be established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/74, taking into account Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/51, and takes note of the views expressed by the Governing Council on the report of the Secretary-General on the interrelationships between environment, resources, people, and development; p/

6. Requests organs and organizations of the United Nations system to take fully into account the view of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination that the System-wide Medium-term Environment Programme should be seen not only as a document of use to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, but also, to the extent relevant to their particular mandates, as a document of basic interest to the governing bodies of other United Nations organizations, q/ and expresses its appreciation of the continued efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme, in co-operation with the entire United Nations system, in the development of the System-wide Medium-term Environment Programme;

7. Invites the General Assembly to give favourable consideration to the draft resolution on a session of a special character of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in 1982, proposed in decision 9/2 of 26 May 1981 of the Governing Council; r/

n/ See UNEP/GC.9/15 and Corr.1, annex I, decision 9/1, sect. II.

o/ Ibid., annex II.

p/ Ibid., annex I, decision 9/1, sect. II.

q/ See UNEP/GC.9/4/Add.1, para.5.

r/ See UNEP/GC.9/15 and Corr.1, annex I.

8. Agrees to consider the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on additional resources for serious environmental problems in developing countries at its second regular session of 1982; s/

9. Expresses its appreciation to Governments that continue to contribute generously to the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme;

10. Appeals to all Governments to increase substantially their contributions to the Fund and to make, before the end of 1981, firm pledges of contributions to the Fund for the years 1982-1983, taking into account decision 9/23 of 26 May 1981 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, as adopted;

11. Reiterates its appeal to Governments that have not yet contributed to the Fund to do so before the end of 1981 and to those Governments still contributing amounts below their means to increase their contributions for the period 1982-1983.

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s/ By its decision 9/24, the Governing Council decided to postpone its response to paragraph 9 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/49 and to paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 35/74 relating to additional resources for environmental problems in developing countries (see UNEP/GC.9/15 and Corr.1, annex I).