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## Fifty-third session

Agenda item 94

### Environment and sustainable development

#### Report of the Second Committee\*

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Uladzimir Gerus (Belarus)

#### I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 94 (see A/53/609, para. 2). Action on the item as a whole was taken at the 23rd, 26th, 29th, 36th, 40th, 41st and 42nd meetings, on 23, 28 and 30 October, 10, 24, 25 November and 1 December 1998. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/53/SR.23, 26, 29, 36 and 40–42).

#### II. Consideration of proposals

##### A. Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.10

2. On 21 October, the representative of *Indonesia*, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and *China*, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations conventions on environment and development" (A/C.2/53/L.10), which read:

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Recalling its resolutions 52/198 and 52/201 of 18 December 1997,*

*"Noting with satisfaction that a large number of States have ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious*

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\* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in seven parts, under the symbol A/53/609 and Add.1–6.

Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and calling upon other States to take appropriate action to that end,

“*Noting* also with satisfaction that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity,

“*Welcoming with appreciation* the generous offer of the Government of Argentina to host the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change from 2 to 13 November 1998, as well as the generous offer of the Government of Senegal to host the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa in Dakar from 30 November to 11 December 1998,

“*Emphasizing* that those Conventions are important instruments for achieving sustainable development, taking into account the objectives embodied therein,

“*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General,

“1. *Welcomes* the selection by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, at its first session of the International Fund for Agricultural Development to house the Global Mechanism and, in accordance with Conference decision 24/COP.1, invites the Fund, as the lead organization, to cooperate fully with the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank;

“2. *Also welcomes* the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by the Conference of the Parties at its third session, and calls upon all States to make further efforts to ensure the entry into force of the Protocol as soon as possible;

“3. *Stresses* the necessity to advance, as soon as possible, the full implementation of the Conventions;

“4. *Calls upon* the Governments of affected countries, as a matter of priority, to accelerate the processes of elaboration of national, subregional and regional action programmes, and calls upon the international community, in particular the developed countries, and the United Nations system, and invites the multilateral financial institutions and all other interested actors to support the efforts of developing countries in those processes by providing financial resources and other forms of assistance, such as transfer of technology and capacity-building, in accordance with the relevant articles of the Conventions and the decisions of the Conferences of the Parties;

“5. *Invites* the Executive Secretaries of the Conventions to report to the General Assembly on the results of future meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention;

“6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on action taken to implement the present resolution;

“7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session an item entitled ‘Implementation of the United Nations conventions on environment and development’.”

3. At the 40th meeting, on 24 November, the representative of Indonesia announced that draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.10 was being withdrawn by its sponsors.

## B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.11 and Corr.1 and A/C.2/53/L.30

4. At the 23rd meeting, on 23 October, the representative of *Indonesia*, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and *China, Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Norway* and the *United States of America*, introduced a draft resolution entitled “International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon” (A/C.2/53/L.11 and Corr.1), which read:

“*The General Assembly,*

“*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its resolution 52/200 of 18 December 1997 on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon,

“*Considering* that the El Niño Southern Oscillation is a natural phenomenon which appears in a recurrent way and in frequent periods and, hence, in a predictable manner,

“*Noting* that an opposite phenomenon to the El Niño Southern Oscillation, known as La Niña, according to scientific predictions, can occur and affect several regions of the world, and that international cooperation would also be needed in order to reduce its impact,

“*Expressing its deepest concern* about the widespread and devastating effects of the El Niño Southern Oscillation all over the world, especially during the year 1997/98, which the scientists have recognized as the year in which the El Niño Southern Oscillation has had its strongest manifestation on record,

“*Stressing* that any credible strategy for the reduction of the natural disaster effects of future El Niño occurrences must be based on effective dialogue and cooperation between the scientific and the technological areas of the United Nations system and its operational responsibilities in the fields of disaster management, humanitarian assistance, sustainable development, technical cooperation and capacity-building,

“1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 52/200 and endorses the recommendations and conclusions contained therein;

“2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the cooperation provided by the United Nations system to the countries affected by the El Niño phenomenon and for the valuable cooperation given by the international community;

“3. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the organization of the first Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on El Niño, to be held at Guayaquil, Ecuador, from 9 to 13 November 1998, in accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 52/200;

“4. *Decides* that the report on the outcome of that Meeting will be considered under appropriate items at the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of 1999 and at the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

“5. *Also decides* to consider the La Niña phenomenon in the context of the implementation of resolution 52/200;

“6. *Calls* for the continued and full implementation of resolution 52/200;

“7. *Welcomes* the convening, in 1999, of an intergovernmental meeting of experts on the El Niño phenomenon, to be held at Lima, which will have a comprehensive approach, comprising scientific, technical, social and political issues, and a broad participation of intergovernmental experts and policy decision makers;

“8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, under the item entitled ‘Environment and sustainable development’, a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

“9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999, on how the United Nations system will deal with the reduction of natural disasters after the conclusion of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in 1999.”

5. At the 36th meeting, on 10 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. David Prendergast (Jamaica), introduced a draft resolution entitled “International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon” (A/C.2/53/L.30), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.11 and Corr.1. Subsequently, *Ireland, Portugal and Spain* joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.30 (see para. 18, draft resolution I).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.30, draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.11 and Corr.1 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

### **C. Draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.17 and A/C.2/53/L.59**

8. At the 26th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of the *Russian Federation* introduced a draft resolution entitled “Review of progress made in implementing conventions related to environment and sustainable development” (A/C.2/53/L.17), which read:

“*The General Assembly,*

“*Recalling* the Programme of Action for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted at its nineteenth special session, in particular part IV thereof, entitled ‘International institutional arrangements’,

“*Recalling* the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its nineteenth session,

“*Recalling further* its decision 52/445 of 18 December 1997, in which it decided to continue to review the progress made in implementing the conventions signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development or established as a result of the Conference, as well as other conventions related to sustainable development, bearing in mind section IV.A of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,

“*Recognizing* that policy decisions under the conventions are undertaken by their respective conferences of the parties, which are autonomous bodies,

“*Recalling* decision 17/25 of 21 May 1993 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, by which the Governing Council adopted the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law,

“*Aware* of close linkages among various conventions and stressing the need for their further assessment, as appropriate, with a view to achieving synergies and multiple benefits and to promoting coherence of policies and actions, thus supporting progress in their overall implementation,

“*Recognizing* the role of the General Assembly in fostering progress in the implementation of the conventions and of the commitments contained therein,

“*Recognizing also* the role the Assembly should play in the overall development of international environmental law related to sustainable development from a cross-sectoral and integrated perspective,

“*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of undertaking the review of the progress made in implementing the conventions related to sustainable development,

“1. *Decides* to undertake at future sessions integrated reviews of progress made in implementing the conventions related to environment and sustainable development, on the basis of an assessment of their linkages, with a view to elaborating policy recommendations which could be brought to the attention of their respective conferences of the parties;

“2. *Further decides* that the United Nations Environment Programme, in conformity with paragraph 119 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, should prepare for consideration by the General Assembly at future sessions periodic thematic reports, with a view to assisting the Assembly in undertaking the intergovernmental reviews envisaged in paragraph 1 above; such reports should be prepared in close collaboration with the secretariats of the conventions and should:

“(a) Focus on scientific assessments of ecological linkages between the conventions, making full use of the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme in environmental assessment and monitoring;

“(b) Synthesize the results of relevant studies and other activities taking place, both individually and jointly, under the conventions;

“3. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the executive secretaries of the conventions and the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to prepare proposals regarding the possible themes, scope and timing of such reviews and submit those proposals for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.”

9. At the 42nd meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. David Prendergast (Jamaica), introduced a draft resolution entitled “International institutional arrangements related to environment and development” (A/C.2/53/L.59), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.17, and orally corrected draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.59 as follows:

(a) In the sixth preambular paragraph, the word “section” was replaced by the word “part”;

(b) In operative paragraph 1, the word “improve” was replaced by the word “better”;

(c) In operative paragraph 2, the words “implement section IV.A” were replaced by the words “implement part IV.A” and the words “in section IV” were replaced by the words “in part IV”.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.59, as orally corrected (see para. 18, draft resolution II).

11. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of France made a statement (see A/C.2/53/SR.42).

12. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.59, draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.17 was withdrawn by its sponsor.

#### **D. Draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.21 and A/C.2/53/L.58**

13. At the 29th meeting, on 30 October, at the request of the representatives of Indonesia, the representatives of Kenya, on behalf of the sponsors, namely, the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme” (A/C.2/53/L.21), which read:

*“The General Assembly,*

*“Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,*

*“Also recalling the results and decisions of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, convened for the purpose of the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, and, in particular, paragraphs 119 and 122 to 124 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,*

*“Further recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its nineteenth session,*

*“Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fifth special session,*

*“1. Welcomes the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fifth special session and the decisions contained therein;*

*“2. Recognizes, in particular, Governing Council decision SS.V/2 on the revitalization, reform and strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme, including the areas that need special action from time to time, as identified by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in line with the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme;*

*“3. Welcomes the adoption by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, at Rotterdam on 11 September 1998, of the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and, in particular, the participation of the secretariat of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme as an interim secretariat to the Convention;*

“4. *Reaffirms* Nairobi as the location for the United Nations Environment Programme and the strengthening of the Programme as the focal point for consideration of global environmental issues;

“5. *Encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme to further strengthen its revitalized role as an important implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility, taking into account the decisions of the March 1998 meeting of the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, and welcomes in particular the collaboration with the Global Environment Facility on freshwater resources, such as the Global International Waters Assessment, and on activities aiming at combating land degradation as they relate to the focal areas of the Global Environment Facility;

“6. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in streamlining the organization in Nairobi, stresses the importance of adequate, stable and predictable financial resources as an essential prerequisite to enable the Programme to discharge its strengthened mandate, and calls upon Governments to make contributions in order to allow for the full and effective implementation of the programmes of the Environment Programme;

“7. *Encourages* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to intensify his efforts to mobilize additional resources from other donor sources as appropriate.”

14. At the 42nd meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. David Prendergast (Jamaica), introduced a draft resolution entitled “Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme” (A/C.2/53/L.58), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.21, and orally corrected draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.58 as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 6, the word “the” was inserted after the words “welcomes further”;

(b) In operative paragraph 7, the words “in this regard, recognizes” were replaced by the words “in this regard, further recognizes”.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.58, as orally corrected (see para. 18, draft resolution III).

16. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.58, draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.21 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

## **E. Draft decision**

17. At its 42nd meeting, on 1 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (A/53/156-E/1998/78) (see para. 19).

### III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

18. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

#### Draft resolution I

##### **International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its resolution 52/200 of 18 December 1997 on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon,<sup>1</sup>

*Expressing its deepest concern* about the widespread and devastating effects of the El Niño Southern Oscillation on most of the regions of the world, especially during the period 1997–1998, which scientists have recognized as the period in which the El Niño Southern Oscillation has had its strongest manifestation on record,

*Noting* the progress made in the understanding of the El Niño Southern Oscillation, and noting further that a continued increase in the collection and exchange of data and information could assist in the modelling and prediction of the recurrence of this natural phenomenon,

*Noting also* that a phenomenon opposite to the El Niño Southern Oscillation, known as La Niña, can, according to scientific predictions, occur in and affect several regions of the world, and that international cooperation could be needed in order to reduce its impact,

*Stressing* that any credible strategy for the reduction of the natural disaster effects of future El Niño occurrences must be based on effective dialogue and cooperation between the scientific and technological areas of the United Nations system and its operational responsibilities in the fields of disaster management, humanitarian assistance, sustainable development, technical cooperation and capacity-building, including data-collection, monitoring and early warning systems, at all levels,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>1</sup> on the implementation of its resolution 52/200 and endorses the recommendations and conclusions contained therein;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the cooperation provided by the United Nations system to the countries affected in their efforts to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and for the valuable cooperation given by the international community;

3. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the outcome of the International Conference on Early Warning Systems for the Reduction of Natural Disasters, convened within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction at Potsdam, Germany, from 7 to 11 September 1998;

4. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the organization of the first Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on El Niño, held at Guayaquil, Ecuador, from 9 to 13 November 1998, in accordance with paragraph 10 of its resolution 52/200;

<sup>1</sup> A/53/487.



5. *Decides* that the report on the outcome of that Meeting will be considered under appropriate agenda items at the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, at the substantive session of 1999 of the Economic and Social Council and at the special session of the General Assembly for the in-depth assessment and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;<sup>2</sup>

6. *Also decides* to consider the La Niña phenomenon in the context of the implementation of its resolution 52/200;

7. *Calls* for the continued and full implementation of its resolution 52/200;

8. *Welcomes* the convening, in 1999, of an intergovernmental meeting of experts on the El Niño phenomenon, to be held at Lima, which will have a comprehensive approach, encompassing scientific, technical, social and political issues, and a broad participation of intergovernmental experts and policy decision makers;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to submit recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999, on how the United Nations system can deal with natural disaster reduction after the conclusion of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in 1999, taking into account the lessons learned and making early warning a key element for future natural disaster reduction strategies;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

## **Draft resolution II**

### **International institutional arrangements related to environment and development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21<sup>3</sup> adopted at its nineteenth special session, in particular part IV thereof, entitled "International institutional arrangements",

*Recalling also* its decision 52/445 of 18 December 1997 on progress in the implementation of conventions relating to sustainable development,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General, on ways and means of undertaking the review of progress made in implementing conventions related to sustainable development,<sup>4</sup>

*Emphasizing* that policy decisions under the conventions are undertaken by their respective Conferences of the Parties, which are autonomous governing bodies,

*Noting* that various conventions related to environment and sustainable development are at different stages of implementation, and recognizing the role of the General Assembly

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution S-19/2, annex.

<sup>4</sup> A/53/477.

in fostering progress in the implementation of those conventions and of the commitments contained therein,

*Reaffirming* the need, as stipulated in part IV of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, for greater coherence in various intergovernmental organizations and processes through better policy coordination at the intergovernmental level, as well as for continued and more concerted efforts to enhance collaboration among the secretariats of relevant decision-making bodies,

1. *Encourages* the Conferences of the Parties to, and the permanent secretariats of, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>5</sup> the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>6</sup> and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa<sup>7</sup> to examine appropriate opportunities and measures to strengthen their complementarities and better scientific assessments of ecological linkages between the three conventions;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report, for submission to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, identifying actions undertaken to implement part IV.A, in particular paragraph 119, of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>3</sup> as well as the areas requiring further consideration and work, taking into account the roles of relevant organizations and institutions of the United Nations system, as stated in part IV of the Programme.

### **Draft resolution III**

#### **Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

*Also recalling* the results and decisions of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, convened for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>8</sup> and, in particular, paragraphs 119 and 122–124 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>9</sup>

*Further recalling* the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its nineteenth session,<sup>10</sup>

<sup>5</sup> A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

<sup>6</sup> See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

<sup>7</sup> A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

<sup>8</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>9</sup> Resolution S/19-2, annex.

<sup>10</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/52/25)*, annex, decision 19/1, annex.

*Having considered* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fifth special session,<sup>11</sup>

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fifth special session and the decisions contained therein;<sup>11</sup>

2. *Recognizes*, in particular, Governing Council decision SS.V/2 on the revitalization, reform and strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme,<sup>12</sup> including the areas of concentration of the activities of the Programme as proposed by the Executive Director in keeping with the spirit of the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,<sup>10</sup> as well as other priority areas of the Programme as established by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session;

3. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, at Rotterdam on 10 September 1998, of the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and takes note of the fact that the functions of the secretariat of the Convention are jointly performed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme as an interim arrangement pending the final decision to be taken by the parties to the Convention on the location of the secretariat;

4. *Also welcomes* the holding of the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants which took place in Montreal, Canada, in June 1998, and further welcomes the positive role played by the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of environmental management of chemicals and especially the efforts undertaken by the Programme as the secretariat of the Convention for the negotiations on a convention on persistent organic pollutants;

5. *Emphasizes* that the United Nations Environment Programme has been and must continue to be the principal United Nations body in the field of environment and that its role is to be the leading global environmental authority which sets the global environmental agenda, which promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and which serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment;

6. *Welcomes* Governing Council decision SS.V/6,<sup>13</sup> as well as the decisions of the April 1998 meeting of the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility and the October 1998 Global Environment Facility Council meeting regarding the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Facility, and welcomes further the collaboration with the Facility on freshwater resources, as in the global international water assessment, and on activities aimed at combating land degradation as they relate to the focal areas of the Facility;

7. *Encourages* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue with the ongoing reform of the Programme; recognizes, as stated in the Nairobi Declaration, that, in order to operationalize its mandate, a revitalized Programme needs adequate, stable and predictable financial resources; and, in this regard, further recognizes the interrelationship between excellence, relevance and cost-effectiveness in programme delivery, confidence in the organization and a consequent increase in the ability of the Programme to attract funding;

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/53/25)*.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., annex I, decision SS.V/2.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., decision SS.V/6.

8. *Also encourages* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to intensify his efforts to mobilize additional financial resources from other donorsources, as appropriate, in order to support the implementation of the priority areas of the Programme in line with the Nairobi Declaration and subject to the agreement of the Governing Council.

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19. The Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

**Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment**

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> A/53/156-E/1998/78.