

with the recommendations as adopted at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development;⁷⁹

19. *Notes* the suggestion made by the World Food Council at its seventh ministerial session that national and international efforts should be stepped up for the training of skilled national staff, that the maximum encouragement should be given to highly qualified agricultural specialists from developing countries to continue working in or to return to those countries, and that measures to avoid the drain of such personnel to developed countries should be considered.⁸⁰

*41st plenary meeting
24 July 1981*

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,⁸¹ and decision 81/4 of 19 June 1981 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme,⁸²

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,⁸³ and the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its ninth session,⁸⁴

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

⁷⁹ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979* (WCARRD/REP); transmitted to the General Assembly by a note of the Secretary-General (A/34/485).

⁸⁰ See WFC/1981/17, part one, para. 13.

⁸¹ 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).

⁸² 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).

⁸³ E/1981/C.1/L.6.

⁸⁴ 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).

15 December 1978, 34/187 and 35/72, and transmits it 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;⁸⁵

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;⁸⁶

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*

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 reiterating that environmental considerations should be viewed in the context of the national plans and priorities and development objectives of all countries, in particular the developing countries,

Having regard to General Assembly resolution 35/74 of 5 December 1980, in which the Assembly decided,

⁸⁵ See UNEP/GC.9/15 and Corr.1, annex I, decision 9/22 B.

⁸⁶ A/CONF.74/36, chap. I.