



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/37/424/Add.1
20 October 1982
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/RUSSIAN

Thirty-seventh session
Agenda item 71 (i)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: ENVIRONMENT

Financing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BRAZIL

[Original: English]

[9 September 1982]

The comments of the Brazilian Government both on the subject and on the proposals contained in document A/36/141 will be made known when the forthcoming thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly addresses the matter.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

[Original: Russian]

[21 September 1982]

1. The position of the Soviet Union, which has been stated at sessions of the General Assembly and at sessions of the Governing Council of UNEP, is motivated by the need to seek financing for new United Nations activities, including the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, not by establishing additional funds, but by using more rationally the resources already available to the organizations of the United Nations system.
2. Since 1978, the Soviet Union, under an agreement with UNEP, has been offering training courses for experts from the developing countries on various aspects of desertification control. These courses are being financed from the Soviet Union's contribution to the voluntary Fund of UNEP. At the courses, the experts study the problems of stabilizing drifting sand, improving salinated and desiccated soil, improving the environment and increasing the productivity of pasture-lands. There are also plans to carry out, in the near future, projects relating to the methodology of charting and assessing soil degradation. These projects will draw on the experience of the USSR regarding the needs of the developing countries. There are plans for projects relating to the environmentally sound management of irrigated land in the semi-arid areas of a number of countries.
3. Assistance is also being given to developing countries on a bilateral basis. In addition, we are prepared, at the request of interested countries, to send Soviet experts to serve as consultants or to assist in solving the problems facing those countries in this field.
