

of the Decade, to update the programme, to organize four consultative technical meetings and to undertake the preparation of the plan of action for the second phase (1984-1988) of the Decade,

Referring also to resolution 435 (XVII) of 30 April 1982 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa,⁴⁰ in which the Conference requested the Executive Secretary to monitor the follow-up to the first four consultative technical meetings and recommended that a fifth meeting should be organized for the countries of North Africa, East Africa and the islands of the Indian Ocean,

Considering that sustained efforts should be made to mobilize additional resources, in order to ensure the implementation of the programme for the Decade,

Conscious of the role which the Economic Commission for Africa plays as the lead agency in the implementation of the programme for the Decade,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;⁴¹

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress thus far made concerning the implementation of the first phase (1980-1983) of the Decade and the encouraging results of the four consultative technical meetings, held at Lomé from 8 to 11 June 1981, Ouagadougou from 20 to 23 January 1982, Yaoundé from 15 to 17 March 1982 and Abidjan from 3 to 5 May 1982;

3. *Further notes with appreciation* the contribution made by certain countries towards the implementation of the programme for the Decade;

4. *Appeals* to donor countries, financing organs and various financial institutions to increase their financial support to the programme for the Decade, in view of the fact that the total volume of the resources thus far mobilized is well below the amount required to finance the whole of the programme for the first phase;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to organize, during the second half of 1983, a fifth consultative technical meeting on roads, maritime transport and ports for the countries of North Africa, East Africa and the islands of the Indian Ocean;

6. *Appeals once again* to donor countries and financing institutions to participate fully and positively in the fifth consultative technical meeting;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to maintain good co-ordination between the financing sources and the African countries, in order to monitor the follow-up to the four consultative technical meetings by closely assisting the countries in their contacts with donors and in formulating and presenting their requests for financing;

8. *Notes* the measures taken by the Executive Secretary of the Commission with regard to the preparation

of the plan of action for the second phase (1984-1988) of the Decade and requests him to submit a report on its preparation to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1983;

9. *Further notes* the establishment of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee, comprising the African Development Bank, the African Postal and Telecommunications Union, the Economic Commission for Africa, the International Telecommunication Union, the Organization of African Unity, the Pan-African Telecommunications Union, the Union of National Radio and Television Organizations of Africa and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, with a view to harmonizing and co-ordinating studies for the prompt implementation of the project on a regional satellite communication system for Africa;

10. *Reiterates* its request to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to intensify his efforts with a view to assisting the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee in the study on the regional satellite communication system for Africa, and to give assistance to African States in the full implementation of the programme for the first phase of the Decade;

11. *Requests* the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session to provide the Economic Commission for Africa with financial and other resources, using, *inter alia*, extra-budgetary funds and existing resources to the maximum extent possible, to enable it to hold the fifth consultative technical meeting scheduled for 1983, to complete the preparation of the plan of action for the second phase of the Decade and to fulfil efficiently its role as the lead agency for the implementation of the programme for the Decade.

*50th plenary meeting
29 July 1982*

1982/55. 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 34/187 of 18 December 1979, 35/72 of 5 December 1980 and 36/190 of 17 December 1981 and Council resolution 1981/72 of 24 July 1981,

Recalling also decision 10/18 of 31 May 1982 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme⁴² and decision 82/26 of 18 June 1982 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme,⁴³

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

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, 1982, Supplement No. 11 (E/1982/21), chap. V.

⁴¹ A/37/296.

⁴² See E/1982/L.42, annex.

⁴³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1982, Supplement No. 6 (E/1982/16/Rev.1), annex I.*

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,⁴⁴ and the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its tenth session,⁴⁵

1. Takes note with appreciation of 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;

2. Expresses its satisfaction at the progress made by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, in assisting the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification⁴⁶ in a joint venture between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme;

3. Welcomes the decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Governing Council of 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 and intergovernmental organizations that are contributing to the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

5. Strongly urges all Governments to intensify their assistance in response to the priority requirements of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

50th plenary meeting
29 July 1982

1982/56. International co-operation on the environment

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind the importance which the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade⁴⁷ attaches to an ecologically sustainable development process and the need for further international co-operation in the field of the environment, and taking into account the fact 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,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 36/192 of 17 December 1981, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the catalytic mandate and role of the United Nations Environment Programme and stressed the need for additional resources to be made available to the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme for the developing countries to deal with their most serious environmental problems, such as soil degradation and deforestation, which are examples of very severe deterioration of natural resources that call for particular attention,

Noting with satisfaction from the introductory statement of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and from statements made during the general discussion of the question at the second regular session of 1982 of the Economic and Social Council that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, at its session of a special character, which was held at Nairobi from 10 to 18 May 1982 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, adopted the Nairobi Declaration,⁴⁸ supporting and supplementing the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,⁴⁹ stressed the need to intensify efforts at every level to protect and improve the environment, identified major environmental trends to be acted upon over the next decade, and fixed priorities for action by the United Nations system to deal with them and, within these priorities, the areas in which the United Nations Environment Programme should concentrate its efforts.

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its tenth session,⁵⁰

1. Takes note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its tenth session and transmits it to the General Assembly for consideration and action with regard to the decisions contained in the annex thereto;

2. Also takes note with satisfaction of decision 10/4 of 31 May 1982 of the Governing Council⁵¹ on environment and development, particularly its emphasis on technical co-operation among developing countries;

3. Welcomes decision 10/26 of 31 May 1982 of the Governing Council⁵¹ concerning the provision of a mechanism within the Programme for assisting developing countries in dealing with their serious environmental problems in line with the co-ordinating and catalytic role of the Programme, expresses its appreciation to those Governments that have pledged to provide tech-

⁴⁸ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25), part one, annex II.

⁴⁹ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. I.

⁵⁰ E/1982/L.42. For the full report, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25).

⁵¹ Ibid., part one, annex I.

⁴⁴ UNEP/GC.10/9 and Corr.1 and UNEP/GC.10/9/Add.1.

⁴⁵ E/1982/L.42. For the full report, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25).

⁴⁶ A/CONF.74/36, chap. I.

⁴⁷ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex