

and having considered the report of the Governing Council on its session of a special character,¹⁵⁹

Reaffirming its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, in which it declared itself convinced of the need for prompt and effective implementation by Governments and the international community of measures designed to safeguard and enhance the environment for the benefit of present and future generations of man,

Taking into account the need to strengthen international co-operation in the field of the environment, particularly to deal with the most serious environmental problems of developing countries, in line with the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,¹⁶⁰

Convinced that the principles of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment¹⁶¹ are as valid today as they were in 1972 and, together with the Nairobi Declaration adopted at the session of a special character,¹⁶² provide basic guidance for effective and sustained progress in the protection and enhancement of the environment,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its session of a special character;¹⁵⁹

2. *Expresses its appreciation* of the positive manner in which Governments responded to its invitation to participate in the session at the highest political level;

3. *Recognizes* that the session of a special character represented a unique opportunity for Governments to re-emphasize their continued commitment and support to the cause of the environment and the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. *Endorses* the Nairobi Declaration,¹⁶² in which the world community, *inter alia*, reaffirmed its commitment to the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment¹⁶¹ and the Action Plan for the Human Environment¹⁶³ adopted at Stockholm, as well as its support for strengthening the United Nations Environment Programme as the major catalytic instrument for global environmental co-operation, and urged all Governments and peoples of the world to discharge their historical responsibility to ensure that the planet Earth is passed over to future generations in a condition that guarantees a life in human dignity for all;

5. *Further endorses:*

(a) The assessment by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its session of a special character of the major achievements and failures in the implementation of the Action Plan for the Human Environment and its conclusions that fair to good progress had been made in implementing some of the elements of the Action Plan while, in respect of other elements, the record had been very modest;

(b) The identification at the above-mentioned session of:

(i) the perceptions of environmental issues that had evolved over the past decade;

(ii) The major environmental trends, potential problems and priorities for action by the United Nations system, during the period 1982-1992, co-ordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme in accordance with its catalytic mandate and role;

(c) The basic orientation of the United Nations Environment Programme for 1982-1992, as recommended by the Governing Council at the above-mentioned session;

(d) The conclusions reached at the above-mentioned session with respect to the institutional arrangements for the United Nations Environment Programme;

6. *Invites* all Governments, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations to ensure that the priorities for action, agreed upon by the Governing Council at its session of a special character in section III of its resolution I,¹⁶⁴ are accorded high priority within their respective programmes at both the national and regional levels;

7. *Also invites* the governing bodies of the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to integrate the major environmental trends over the next ten years effectively in their action plans and, on the basis of those trends, in close co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme, to draw up appropriate measures for environmental protection, particularly in developing countries, with due regard to available resources;

8. *Reiterates* the importance it attaches to the development of the Environmental Perspective to the year 2000 and beyond, and requests the Governing Council at its eleventh session to make, on the basis of a report by the Executive Director, concrete recommendations to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1983, on the modalities for preparing the Environmental Perspective;

9. *Supports* the view expressed at the session of a special character that the human environment would greatly benefit from an international atmosphere of peace and security, free from the threat of any war;

10. *Emphasizes* that the implementation of the priorities for action recommended by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its session of a special character requires adequate financial resources and, in view of this, appeals to all Governments, particularly of developed countries, to respond positively and increase their contribution to the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme.

113th plenary meeting
20 December 1982

37/220. Study on financing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/172 of 19 December 1977, 33/89 of 15 December 1978, 34/184 of 18 December 1979 and 36/191 of 17 December 1981, dealing with the implementation and financing of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,¹⁵⁵

Taking note of the relevant section of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its tenth session,¹⁶⁵ in particular paragraphs 2 and 4 of section VII of Governing Council decision 10/14

¹⁵⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25)*, part one.

¹⁶⁰ Resolution 35/56, annex.

¹⁶¹ *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 Corr.1), chap. I.

¹⁶² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25)*, part one, annex II.

¹⁶³ *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 Corr.1), chap. II.

¹⁶⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25)*, part one, annex I.

¹⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, part two.

of 31 May 1982¹⁶⁶ on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

1. *Takes note again* of the report of the Secretary-General¹⁶⁷ and the annex thereto, which contains feasibility studies on additional measures of financing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, prepared by a group of high-level experts;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on financing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification¹⁶⁸ and of the fact that the number of replies received from Governments in response to the request made by the General Assembly in paragraphs 3 and 4 of its resolution 36/191 was too small to allow for preparation of the report requested of the Secretary-General in that resolution;

3. *Urges* all Member States that have not yet provided their comments to the Secretary-General on the feasibility studies and concrete recommendations for the implementation of the additional measures of financing, as well as on the modalities for obtaining financial resources as described in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁶⁷ to do so as soon as possible;

4. *Requests again* the Secretary-General to refer the experts' feasibility study and working plan for the establishment of an international financial corporation to finance non-commercial desertification measures, contained in chapter IV of the annex to his report,¹⁶⁷ to Member States and to seek their views on:

- (a) The establishment of the corporation;
- (b) Their interest in participating financially therein;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*113th plenary meeting
20 December 1982*

37/221. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 35/76 of 5 December 1980, in which it expressed the view that an international year devoted to the problems of homeless people in urban and rural areas of the developing countries could be an appropriate occasion to focus the attention of the international community on those problems,

Recalling also its resolution 36/71 of 4 December 1981 in which it decided, in principle, to designate 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, on the understanding that the criteria for financing and organizing international years set out in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 were complied with,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,¹⁶⁹ together with the comments made thereon by the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifth session¹⁷⁰ and the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of

1982,¹⁷¹ and also the report of the Secretary-General on the organizational and financial aspects of holding the International Year,¹⁷² called for in General Assembly resolution 36/71,

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/46 B of 27 July 1982 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Seriously concerned that, despite the efforts of Governments at the national and local levels and of international organizations, the living conditions of the majority of the people in slums and squatter areas and rural settlements, especially in developing countries, continue to deteriorate in both relative and absolute terms,

Convinced that a special effort to address this fundamental issue will strengthen overall national economic and social development, in furtherance of the goals of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,¹⁷³

Having considered the recommendations of the Commission on Human Settlements, contained in its resolution 5/14 of 7 May 1982,¹⁷⁴ Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/46 B and the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁷²

1. *Proclaims* the year 1987 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

2. *Decides* that the objective of activities before and during the Year will be to improve the shelter and neighbourhoods of some of the poor and disadvantaged by the end of 1987, particularly in the developing countries, according to national priorities, and to demonstrate by the year 2000 ways and means of improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged;

3. *Also decides* that special attention will be given, during the Year and the preparations therefor, to ways and means of:

(a) Securing renewed political commitment by the international community to the improvement of the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged and to the provision of shelter for the homeless, particularly in the developing countries, as a matter of priority;

(b) Consolidating and sharing all new and existing knowledge and relevant experience gained since Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in 1976,¹⁷⁵ in order to provide a full range of tested and practical alternatives for improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged and for providing shelter for the homeless;

(c) Developing and demonstrating new approaches and methods to assist directly and to augment the present efforts of the homeless, poor and disadvantaged to secure their own shelter and in order to provide a basis for new national policies and strategies for improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged by the year 2000;

(d) Exchanging experience and providing support among countries to meet the objectives of the Year;¹⁷⁶

4. *Urges* that the main thrust of the specific programme of measures and activities to be undertaken prior to and during the Year should take place at the national and local levels, in accordance with national plans and priorities;

¹⁷¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/37/3)*, chap. IV, sect. E.

¹⁷² A/37/527 and Add.1.

¹⁷³ See resolution 35/56, annex, paras. 159 and 160.

¹⁷⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/37/8)*, annex 1, sect. A.

¹⁷⁵ See *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 76.IV.7 and corrigendum).

¹⁷⁶ See A/37/527, sect. V.

¹⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, annex.

¹⁶⁷ A/36/141.

¹⁶⁸ A/37/424 and Add.1.

¹⁶⁹ HS/C/5/5.

¹⁷⁰ See E/1982/81, annex II.