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Agenda item 82 (e)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION; ENVIRONMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee,  
Mr. Henricus Gajentaan (Netherlands), on the basis of informal  
consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.42

Traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes

The General Assembly,

Recalling Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme decisions 14/19 on the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, 14/27 on environmentally safe management of chemicals, in particular those that are banned and severely restricted in international trade, and 14/30 on environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, all of 17 June 1987, 1/

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/54 of 28 May 1987 on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods,

Recognizing the useful role that the organizations of the United Nations system, including such bodies as the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, could play in assisting in the prevention and control of the potentially harmful effects of traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes,

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session,  
Supplement No. 25 (A/42/25), annex I.

Convinced that the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade, 2/ as well as the Cairo Guidelines and Principles for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes, 3/ represent a significant step forward,

Concerned that part of the international movement of toxic and dangerous products and wastes is being carried out in contravention of existing national legislation and relevant international legal instruments, as well as internationally accepted guidelines and principles, to the detriment of the environment and public health of all countries, particularly that of developing countries,

Convinced that these problems cannot be resolved without adequate co-operation among members of the international community and that the international community should adopt measures to complement and strengthen the above-mentioned guidelines and principles,

Also convinced of the need to assist all countries, particularly developing countries, to obtain all necessary information concerning toxic and dangerous products and wastes and to reinforce their capacity to detect and halt any illegal attempt to introduce toxic and dangerous products and wastes into the territory of any State, in contravention of national legislation and relevant international legal instruments, as well as traffic not carried out in compliance with internationally accepted guidelines and principles in this field,

Welcoming the convening of a diplomatic conference in Switzerland in 1989 for the purpose of adopting a global convention on control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, for which a preparatory meeting was convened by the United Nations Environment Programme from 27 to 30 October 1987 at Budapest, in conjunction with the World Conference on Hazardous Wastes,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report on the question of illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes - that is, in contravention of national legislation and relevant international legal instruments - as well as traffic not carried out in compliance with internationally accepted guidelines and principles in this field, and its impact on all countries, in particular developing countries, for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, a preliminary report on the question to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1988;

2. Invites all Governments to co-operate with the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution and also invites the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to assist the Secretary-General in the preparation of the report;

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2/ UNEP/GC.14/17, annex IV.

3/ Ibid., annex II.

3. Calls upon all Governments to co-operate in the prevention and control of illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes - that is, in contravention of national legislation and relevant international legal instruments - as well as traffic not carried out in compliance with internationally accepted guidelines and principles.

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