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**Environment and sustainable development: protection
of global climate for present and future generations
of mankind**

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/56/561, para. 2). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 35th and 40th meetings, on 30 November and 12 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.35 and 40).

**II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.41 and
A/C.2/56/L.77**

2. At the 35th meeting, on 30 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/56/L.41), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 50/115 of 20 December 1995, 51/184 of 16 December 1996, 52/199 of 18 December 1997 and 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and other relevant resolutions

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/56/561 and Add.1-8.



relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

“Noting that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

“Noting also that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention has so far attracted 43 ratifications, and encouraging necessary action to facilitate the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol at the earliest possible date, before the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002,

“Noting further its adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases,

“Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Morocco for hosting the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Marrakesh from 29 October to 9 November 2001,

“Taking note of the adoption of the Bonn Agreements on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action at the second part of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, convened in Bonn from 16 to 27 July 2001,

“Taking note also of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth session to approve the continuation of the current institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations and related administrative arrangements for a further five-year period, to be reviewed by both the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention by not later than 31 December 2006,

“Taking note further of the report of the Secretary-General on the continuation of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations,

“Taking note of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention whereby the General Assembly is invited to decide at its fifty-sixth session on the issue of meeting the conference-servicing expenses of the Convention from its regular budget, taking into account the views expressed by Member States,

“Noting also that, by paragraph (c) of its decision 55/443, it decided to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2002-2003 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium, in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

“Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention, which was prepared in response to the invitation of the General Assembly in paragraph (d) of its decision 55/443,

“1. *Urges* Member States to ratify or to accede to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to ensure its entry into force, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in 2002;

“2. *Calls upon* all States parties to continue to take effective steps to implement their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

“3. *Takes note* of the Marrakesh Accords adopted at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, complementing the Bonn Agreements on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, paving the way for the timely entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol;

“4. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the secretariats of the multilateral conventions, within the mandate given by their respective conferences of parties, to promote sustainable development by strengthening complementarities and improving the scientific assessment of ecological linkages between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa;

“5. *Approves* the continuation of the institutional linkage of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to the United Nations, and related administrative arrangements, for a further five-year period;

“6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the functioning of that institutional linkage not later than 31 December 2006, in consultation with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties, and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

“7. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

“8. *Also invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

“9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled ‘Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind’.”

3. At the 40th meeting, on 12 December, the Committee had before it a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.41, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/56/L.50).

4. Also at the 40th meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Dharmansjah Djumala (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution entitled “Protection of global

climate for present and future generations of mankind” (A/C.2/56/L.77), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.41.

5. At the same meeting, the Secretary informed the Committee that the programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/56/L.50 applied equally to draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.77.

6. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China (see A/C.2/56/SR.40).

7. Also at the 40th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.77 (see para. 9).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.77, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.41 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/115 of 20 December 1995, 51/184 of 16 December 1996, 52/199 of 18 December 1997 and 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and other relevant resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

Noting that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,¹

Remaining deeply concerned that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island States, face increased risk from the negative impacts of climate change,

Noting that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change² has attracted forty-five ratifications,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Morocco for hosting the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at Marrakesh, Morocco, from 29 October to 10 November 2001,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

² FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision I/CP.3.

Noting the adoption of the Bonn Agreements³ on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action⁴ by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at the second part of its sixth session, held at Bonn, Germany, from 16 to 27 July 2001,

Expressing its appreciation to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for its excellent work in preparing the Third Assessment Report, and encouraging parties to make full use of the information contained in the Third Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Taking note of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth session to approve the continuation of the current institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations and the related administrative arrangements for a further five-year period, to be reviewed by both the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention no later than 31 December 2006,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the continuation of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations,⁵

Taking note further of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention inviting the General Assembly to decide at its fifty-sixth session on the question of meeting the conference-servicing expenses of the Convention from its regular budget, taking into account the views expressed by Member States,

Noting that, by paragraph (c) of its decision 55/443, it decided to include, in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2002-2003, the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium, in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,⁶ which was prepared in response to the invitation of the General Assembly in paragraph (d) of its decision 55/443,

1. *Recalls* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁷ in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, and calls upon States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

2. *Calls upon* all States parties to continue to take effective steps to implement their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

3. *Stresses* the importance of capacity-building, as well as of developing and disseminating innovative technologies in respect of key sectors of development, particularly energy, and of investment in this regard, including through private

³ FCCC/CP/2001/5, decision 5/CP.6.

⁴ FCCC/CP/1998/16/Add.1, decision 1/CP.4.

⁵ A/56/385.

⁶ See A/56/509.

⁷ Resolution 55/2, para. 23.

sector involvement, market-oriented approaches and supportive public policies, as well as international cooperation, emphasizes that climate change and its adverse impacts have to be addressed through cooperation at all levels, and welcomes the efforts of all parties to implement the Convention;

4. *Takes note* of the Marrakesh Accords, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its seventh session, held at Marrakesh, Morocco, from 29 October to 9 November 2001, complementing the Bonn Agreements³ on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,⁴ paving the way for the timely entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Marrakesh Ministerial Declaration, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its seventh session, as a contribution to the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

6. *Encourages* the conferences of the parties to and the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity⁸ and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa⁹ and other international instruments related to environment and sustainable development, as well as relevant organizations, especially the United Nations Environment Programme, including, as appropriate, the involvement of the environmental management group, to continue their work for enhancing mutual complementarities with full respect for the status of the secretariats of the conventions and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, to strengthen cooperation with a view to facilitating progress in the implementation of those conventions at the international, regional and national levels and to report thereon to their respective conferences of the parties;

7. *Approves* the continuation of the institutional linkage of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to the United Nations, and related administrative arrangements, for a further five-year period;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the functioning of that institutional linkage not later than 31 December 2006, in consultation with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties, and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

9. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

⁸ See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

⁹ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

10. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled “Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind”.
