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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM
IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION

DECLARATION PROCLAIMING CLIMATE AS PART
OF THE COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND

Letter dated 9 September 1988 from the Permanent Representative of
Malta to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request, on behalf of the Government of Malta, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Declaration proclaiming climate as part of the common heritage of mankind" in the agenda of the forty-third session of the General Assembly.

In accordance with rule 20 of the Assembly's rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum concerning my Government's request is attached hereto.

(Signed) Alexander BORG OLIVIER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. It must be accepted that climate is a natural resource which can be significantly altered regionally and globally as a result of human activities. The undisputed observational evidence already available demonstrates the need for a comprehensive global strategy for the conservation of climate in the interest of mankind.
2. Climate conditions all human activities. Due to various factors, by the middle of the next century the Earth is expected to experience a considerable rise in temperature. This increase could have a serious impact on human health and well-being, agriculture, water-resource management, and a number of weather-sensitive, socio-economic activities. The rise in sea-level as a result of the thermal expansion of sea-water would adversely affect marine life and coastal structures, as well as the millions of persons living in coastal areas.
3. The implications of climate change raise serious questions particularly those related to the survival of mankind.
4. The Government of Malta proposes that the General Assembly declare climate to be the common heritage of mankind. The Government of Malta proposes further that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to establish an appropriate inter-agency mechanism to consider and co-ordinate the relevant work being undertaken by the competent organs and programmes within the United Nations system and outside the United Nations framework and to examine the current situation with a view to elaborating a global strategy to conserve climate in order to ensure that life on Earth can be sustained.
