



General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 87

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/57/532/Add.7)]

57/251. Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh special session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it established the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also its resolutions 53/242 of 28 July 1999 and 56/193 of 21 December 2001 on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-first session,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh special session,¹

Taking into account the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”),²

Recalling that in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation the General Assembly was invited to consider, at its fifty-seventh session, the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Underlining the unique role of the General Assembly, as the highest intergovernmental decision-making body of the United Nations, in giving consideration to the issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme and, therefore, the need for a thorough analysis by Member States and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to enable the General Assembly to fully consider all its implications, including legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, before making a decision,

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, which

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/57/25).*

² *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

should take into account, within its mandate, the sustainable development needs of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh special session,¹ and the decisions contained therein;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance for its report as adopted by the Governing Council at its seventh special session;³

3. *Recalls* the decision made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development⁴ to fully implement the outcomes of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance adopted by the Governing Council at its seventh special session;¹

4. *Invites* Member States, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to submit to the Secretariat their comments on the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, including its legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report incorporating those views to the General Assembly for its consideration before its sixtieth session;

5. *Reiterates its desire* to be informed on the work of the Environmental Management Group;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, to continue to contribute to sustainable development programmes and the implementation of Agenda 21⁵ at all levels, bearing in mind the mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

7. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and in this regard and in accordance with resolution 2997 (XXVII) underlines the need to consider adequate reflection of all administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi.

*78th plenary meeting
20 December 2002*

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/57/25), annex I, decision SS.VII/1, appendix.*

⁴ See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex, para. 140 (d).

⁵ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.