



## General Assembly

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SECOND COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 148

### CONSERVATION OF CLIMATE AS PART OF THE COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND

Malta: draft resolution

#### Conservation of climate as part of the common heritage of mankind

The General Assembly,

Welcoming with appreciation the initiative taken by the Government of Malta in proposing for consideration by the Assembly the item entitled "Conservation of climate as part of the common heritage of mankind",

Concerned that certain human activities could change global climate patterns threatening present and future generations with severe economic and social consequences,

Noting with concern that continued growth in atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse" gases could produce global warming with eventual rise in sea levels whose effects could be disastrous for mankind if timely steps are not taken at the national, regional and global levels,

Concerned also that emissions of certain substances are depleting the ozone layer and thereby exposing the earth's surface to increased ultra-violet radiation, which may pose a threat to human health, agricultural productivity, animal and marine life and non-living things,

Noting its resolution 42/186 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and beyond and resolution 42/187 on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development,

Convinced that climate change is a major challenge to sustainable development,

**Aware** that considerable valuable work at the scientific level has already been carried out on climate change and in particular by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Council of Scientific Unions and under the auspices of individual States,

**Convinced** that the problem of climate change affects humanity as a whole and can only be confronted on a global basis so as to take into account the vital interests of all mankind,

1. **Recognizes** that climate change is a common concern of mankind, since climate is an essential condition which sustains life on earth;
2. **Determines** that urgent action must be taken to deal with the problem of climate change within a global framework;
3. **Appeals** to Governments to become parties to international instruments elaborated specifically for the protection of the global environment and of the atmosphere;
4. **Reaffirms** its resolution 42/184, in which it agreed that the United Nations Environment Programme should attach importance to the problem of global climate change and that the Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme should ensure that the Programme co-operated closely with the World Meteorological Organization and the International Council of Scientific Unions and maintained an active role in the World Climate Programme;
5. **Notes** the conclusions of the meeting held at Villach, Austria, in 1985, which, *inter alia*, recommended a programme on climate change to be promoted by Governments and the scientific community through the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Council of Scientific Unions;
6. **Emphasizes** the need to increase understanding of the world's climate system and to apply that understanding to human activities;
7. **Considers** that activities in support of the World Climate Programme, approved by the Congress and Executive Council of the World Meteorological Organization and elaborated in the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, approved by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, be accorded high priority by the relevant organs and programmes of the United Nations system;
8. **Welcomes** the establishment by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme of an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to carry out internationally co-ordinated scientific assessments of the magnitude, timing and potential impact of climate change;
9. **Urges** Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and scientific institutions, to treat the problem of climate change as a priority issue; to accelerate specific action-oriented programmes and research on climate

change, including its regional aspects and specific time-frames; and to contribute, as appropriate, with human and financial resources to multilateral efforts to protect the global climate;

10. Calls upon other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, including the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations University, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development to support the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

11. Encourages the convening of conferences on climate change, particularly global warming, at the national, regional and global levels in order to make all Governments, intergovernmental organizations and the international community better aware of the importance and urgency of dealing effectively with all aspects of climatic change resulting from human activities;

12. Calls upon Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and industry to collaborate in making every effort to prevent further detrimental effects on climate and other activities affecting the ecological balance;

13. Requests the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, together with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change immediately to initiate action leading, possibly within the next eighteen months, to a comprehensive review and recommendations with respect to:

(a) The state of knowledge of the science of climate and climatic change, with special emphasis on global warming;

(b) Programmes and studies of the social and economic impact of climate change particularly global warming;

(c) Possible policy responses by Governments and others to delay, limit or mitigate the impact of adverse climate change;

(d) Relevant treaties and other legal instruments dealing with climate;

(e) Elements for possible inclusion in a future international convention on climate;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and well-established scientific institutions with expertise in matters concerning climate;

15. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of the forty-fourth session the item entitled "Conservation of climate as part of the common heritage of mankind".

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