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SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Letter dated 2 November 1988 from the Deputy Permanent Representative  
of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request you to arrange for the circulation as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 86, discussed in the Second Committee, the recommendations of the International Conference on Locust Peril convened on the initiative of His Majesty King Hassan II at the ministerial level on 28 and 29 October 1988 at Fez (Morocco).

(Signed) Mohamed BENNOUNA  
Deputy Permanent Representative

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE  
LOCUST PLAGUE HELD IN FEZ ON 28 AND 29 OCTOBER 1988

The delegations of countries and of national and international institutions meeting at Fez on 28 and 29 October 1988 on the occasion of the International Conference on the Locust Plague,

Have the privilege and honour to express their deep gratitude and respectful compliments to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco for the royal initiative in convening this Conference and for the warm welcome and the traditional hospitality which they have been giving,

Deeply preoccupied by the gravity and the extent of the locust invasion and its devastating effects, as well as its disastrous repercussions on the economy of the affected areas,

Considering that the locust plague will last several years,

Convinced of the need to take urgent action on a large scale so as to break the present cycle of invasion,

Aware of the limitations of the national resources of the invaded countries to put an end to this plague,

Anxious to preserve the natural ecosystems,

Taking into consideration the available resources of the donating countries to step up the anti-locust campaign,

Invite all the countries threatened by the invasion of desert locusts to take urgently all appropriate measures to strengthen their own anti-locust campaigns;

Invite the international community to support these efforts and to increase emergency aid in order to enhance immediately the capacity of the invaded countries to fight the locusts by providing them with surveying and insecticide-spraying aircraft and with spraying and protection materials;

Propose, for the current invasion period, the establishment under United Nations auspices of an international task force to undertake specific anti-locust activities in strategic areas and request the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to establish a working group, including representatives of both the affected countries and the donors, to prepare as soon as possible a detailed plan and to define the ways and means required for its implementation;

Urge the affected countries, assisted by the international community, to strengthen their national structures for plant-life protection so that they may have at their disposal in the medium and long term operational and permanent anti-locust units capable of undertaking preventive action;

Request the international community to support the regional emergency plans of action and to allow their implementation as soon as possible;

Recommend that the collection, processing and dissemination at all levels of information on locust invasion should be improved in order to ensure better forecasting and more efficient anti-locust measures;

Recommend the establishment of appropriate training programmes by mobilizing the necessary resources for this purpose and by enlisting the help of national and regional institutions;

Recommend the development of co-ordinated research programmes aimed at:

Developing new and more efficient methods of control causing less pollution to the environment,

Establishing a reliable forecasting system,

Achieving a better understanding of the relationship between climatic phenomena and the bio-ecology of desert locusts;

Recommend the establishment of a committee consisting of Morocco, Sudan, Niger, Saudi Arabia and FAO to monitor the resolutions adopted by the Conference and to disseminate information periodically to the countries and institutions concerned on the results achieved and to convene in due time a new international conference on the anti-locust campaign.

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