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SECOND COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 82 (g)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: LONG-TERM  
STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND DEVELOPMENT

Czechoslovakia and Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic:  
revised draft resolution

International co-operation in the monitoring, assessment and  
prevention of threats to environmental security

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/186 of 11 December 1987 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, 42/187 of 11 December 1987 on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, and 38/165 of 19 December 1983, 40/200 of 17 December 1985, and 42/184 of 11 December 1987 on international co-operation in the field of the environment,

Convinced that one of the gravest problems facing the world today is the deterioration of the environment,

Aware that environmental degradation, in its various forms, has assumed such proportions as can cause irreversible changes in ecosystems, which threatens to undermine human well-being,

Convinced that monitoring, assessment and anticipation of threats to the stability of ecosystems are essential in ensuring an environmentally secure world,

Aware that increased understanding, at various levels, of environmental conditions, through the provision of information, in particular on all environmental accidents, especially those with transboundary consequences, as well as through education and training, is essential for early detection of threats to the human environment,

Reaffirming the importance of the acquisition and international exchange of experience and knowledge and of the promotion of the transfer of technology for the monitoring, assessment, protection and enhancement of the environment in accordance with respective national laws, regulations and policies,

Noting the results of the functioning of "Earthwatch", established by the United Nations Conference on the the Human Environment, held at Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, and operated by the United Nations Environment Programme, which contributes to monitoring, assessment and prevention of environmental degradation and threats,

Aware of the need to further develop and strengthen the capacity of "Earthwatch" to issue early warning on environmental threats and emerging environmental problems,

Recognizing that these threats and problems may constitute risks for the environmental security of nations, under which each country would be safe against the negative environmental impacts of human activities,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in this connection,

Recognizing that the ongoing effects at both the national and international levels should be complemented, as a matter of urgency, by broadening and intensifying international co-operation in the field of environment, with due attention to increasing the capacity of all countries, especially the developing ones to solve environmental problems,

Noting the proposals concerning early regional and international arrangements, including meetings of experts and political leaders with a view to preparing for the convening not later than 1992 of a United Nations conference on environment and development at the highest possible level,

1. Requests the Secretary-General, assisted by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to outline on the basis of views of Member States, possible ways and means to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations, aimed at protecting nations against the negative environmental impacts of human activities:

- (a) To assess, anticipate and prevent serious environmental threats;
- (b) To issue early warning and call for action to the international community when such threats constitute risks to the environmental security of nations;
- (c) To develop further necessary measures, including possible legal instruments, to ensure co-operation in this area;
- (d) To assist Governments in taking concerted measures in assessing, anticipating and managing environmental risks related to human activities;

2. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a consolidated report on these matters to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session under the agenda item entitled "Development and international economic co-operation: environment", thus contributing, *inter alia*, to the preparatory process for a United Nations conference on environment and development.

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