



General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/43/L.41
10 November 1988
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Forty-third session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 86

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Zaire*: draft resolution

International strategy for the fight against locust and
grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/185 of 8 December 1986 and resolution 1988/3 of the Economic and Social Council of 24 May 1988 concerning the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation in Africa,

Recalling also resolution 1988/2 of the Economic and Social Council of 5 February 1988, in which the Council drew particular attention to the critical locust and grasshopper situation in one of the regions where the infestation originated,

Recalling also its resolution S-13/2 of 1 June 1986 on the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 and resolution 41/29 of 31 October 1986 on the emergency situation in Africa, which recognized that food production on that continent must be increased to meet its populations' needs,

Aware that its resolution 42/169 of 11 December 1987 on an international decade for natural disaster reduction had included the locust and grasshopper peril among the major disasters covered by the decade,

* On behalf of the African States.

Noting resolution No. CM/Res.1173 (XLVIII) on the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation in Africa, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its forty-eighth ordinary session, held from 19 to 23 May 1988, 1/

Deeply concerned by the exceptional gravity and the potential and real dangers of the present locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa, despite the laudable efforts of the affected countries as recognized in the report of the Director-General of FAO on the locust and grasshopper infestation in Africa, 2/

Aware that, in the course of the present infestation, swarms of locusts and grasshoppers have affected or may invade the great majority of African countries, countries of the Near East and South-West Asia, as well as countries of Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe, and concerned at the disastrous consequences that may result for agricultural production and food security in the world,

Taking into account in that context the potential problem posed by billions of insects capable of devouring, by swarm, as many as 80,000 tons of vegetation and cereal crops per day, of migrating far from their original habitat and obliterating the livelihood of hundreds of millions of people in some 50 countries,

Alarmed by the ravages which the present invasion of locusts and grasshoppers is continuing to cause in many countries of Africa and other geographical regions, and concerned at the economic and social consequences, including the drop in agricultural output which could last for several years, the displacement of affected populations which would ensue and, in particular, the impact both on the ecological environment and on medium- and long-term economic and social development,

Convinced that of the total area to be treated only a very small portion of the infested areas in Africa have benefited from locust and grasshopper control campaigns and that, given the extreme seriousness of the present situation, it can be expected that the cycle of invasion will last beyond 1989 for a minimum period of five years, in which it can be predicted that the plague will intensify and extend to areas which were previously spared,

Aware that present locust and grasshopper control campaigns have so far been unable to put an end to the infestation, particularly because of the limited financial resources of the affected countries, and convinced that the fight against the plague which, by virtue of its recurrent nature and geographical extent, is international in scope and requires increased and co-ordinated mobilization of appropriate human, scientific, technical, material and financial resources,

Noting with satisfaction the readiness of donor countries resolutely to support action to fight locust and grasshopper infestation, knowing that the

1/ See A/43/398.

2/ A/43/688, annex.

resources of affected countries and emergency operations are not in themselves adequate to halt the plague on a lasting basis,

Concerned urgently to define an effective strategy for fighting the locust and grasshopper peril while protecting the health of the populations concerned and the natural ecosystems,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the International Conference on Locust and Grasshopper Infestation held at Fez, Morocco, on 28 and 29 October 1988,

1. Takes note with interest of the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
2. Expresses its deep concern at the worsening locust and grasshopper infestations, especially in Africa, which may adversely affect food production and result in renewed famine, and reaffirms the need to accord the highest priority to locust and grasshopper control and eradication;
3. Takes note with appreciation of the efforts of affected countries and expresses its gratitude to donor countries, organizations of the United Nations system and other competent institutions in their efforts to contain the infestation, in particular the Emergency Centre for Locust Operations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Joint Organization for Locust and Avian Pest Control, the Desert Locust Control Organization-East Africa and the Joint Committee of North African Experts on Locust and Grasshopper Control;
4. Invites all countries recently threatened by the invasion of desert locusts to take all appropriate measures to develop their own national means of protection against locusts and grasshoppers and to contribute, to the extent possible, to the implementation of regional infestation control programmes, and encourages the other affected countries to continue their efforts in that area;
5. Calls upon the donor countries and organizations to assist the affected countries while strengthening their control capacity by making available to them, particularly at the present critical stage, inter alia, reconnaissance and spraying aircraft, means of transport and liaison, degradable insecticides, spraying equipment, and, where necessary, specialized technicians, and to continue this assistance as long as the infestation lasts;
6. Further calls upon the international community, particularly the developed countries, to support fully the locust and grasshopper control activities undertaken at the national and regional levels by the mainly African affected countries, specifically in the areas of data collection and dissemination of information, prevention, co-ordination and funding, the establishment of national and regional early warning systems, and the strengthening of existing national systems for the protection of plant life;
7. Invites the international community, particularly the developed countries, to assist the affected countries to considerably improve the present methods of monitoring and control and, specifically, to use remote-sensing

/...

techniques as a means of improving the quality of meteorological observations and forecasting in the affected countries, particularly in the regions where locust and grasshopper infestations originate;

8. Further invites the international community, including the organizations of the United Nations system and specifically the United Nations Development Programme, to contribute to the funding for the establishment of training programmes agreed on by the affected countries for the training of specialized personnel capable of using the modern techniques of locust and grasshopper control;

9. Further recommends the mobilization of the international scientific community to develop co-ordinated research programmes to identify new and more effective control methods, establish a reliable forecasting system and reach a better understanding of the interrelationship between climatic phenomena and the bio-ecology of the desert locust;

10. Requests the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in close co-operation with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, to undertake an assessment of the pesticides and techniques currently used in the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, in particular the biological fight against the reproduction of larvae, and to test the efficacy of these pesticides and techniques, bearing in mind their effects on the natural environment and the health of the people living in the affected zones;

11. Urges the multilateral financial and development institutions, including the United Nations Development Programme, to give high priority, within the framework of their activities, to the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, and to grant financial and technical assistance to the affected countries, particularly those which have issued appeals for international assistance or have declared a state of emergency;

12. Invites the Secretary-General to involve the International Group of Experts, established as part of the preparations for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, in the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation by means of research programmes on its biological, bio-climatic and chemical aspects and on the risks of mutation which might make locusts more resistant to insecticides or the effects of climate;

13. Further invites the Secretary-General to undertake the necessary consultations with the Member States and organizations concerned with a view to establishing a United Nations international action unit to undertake co-ordinated actions to control locusts and grasshoppers, particularly in the seriously infested regions; and to that end, further invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to establish a working group made up of representatives of the affected countries, the donor countries and the relevant organizations to prepare a detailed plan to fight the locust and grasshopper infestation, including the necessary modalities and means for the implementation of the action unit;

14. Encourages the Secretary-General to keep the question of the locust and grasshopper infestation under review, particularly in Africa, and to undertake, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the necessary action to make the world community more aware of the disastrous cumulative consequences of locust and grasshopper infestation, specifically with respect to food security;

15. Decides to include the question of the locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa, in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it on that occasion, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1989, a detailed report on the implementation of the provisions of this resolution, including a report by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on developments in the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation.
