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Environment and sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. José Alberto **Briz Gutiérrez** (Guatemala)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 94 (see A/58/484, para. 2). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 24th and 37th meetings, on 3 November and 11 December 2003. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/58/SR.24 and 37).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.14 and A/C.2/58/L.14/Rev.1

2. At the 24th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/58/L.14), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its resolutions 56/199 of 21 December 2001, 57/257 of 27 February 2003 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/58/484 and Add.1-8.

“Recalling also the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (‘Johannesburg Plan of Implementation’) and the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held at New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,

“Noting that one hundred and eighty-eight States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

“Recalling the provisions of the Convention, including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

“Remaining deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks from the negative impacts of climate change,

“Noting that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has attracted one hundred and nineteen ratifications, including from parties mentioned in annex I to the Convention, who account for 44.2 per cent of emissions,

“Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,

“Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

“1. Calls upon States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

“2. Notes that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change strongly urge the States, in particular parties mentioned in annex I to the Convention, that have not yet done so, to ratify it as soon as possible;

“3. Notes also the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

“4. *Encourages* the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity to invite the secretariat of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to join its ongoing work;

“5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

“6. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

“7. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

“8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the sub-item entitled ‘Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind’.”

3. At the 37th meeting, on 11 December 2003, the Committee had before it a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.14, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/58/L.44).

4. At the same meeting, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the Member States of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a revised draft resolution entitled “Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind” (A/C.2/58/L.14/Rev.1).

5. Also at the same meeting, a recorded vote was requested on operative paragraph 5 of the revised draft resolution (see A/C.2/58/SR.37).

6. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in which she explained her vote before the vote (see A/C.2/58/SR.37).

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted operative paragraph 5 of the revised draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.14/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 153 to 1, with no abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan,

Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

8. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Italy (on behalf of the European Union) and Japan made statements in explanation of vote after the vote (see A/C.2/58/SR.37).

9. At the same meeting, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, made a statement.

10. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.14/Rev.1 as a whole (see para. 11).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its resolutions 56/199 of 21 December 2001 and 57/257 of 27 February 2003 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

Recalling also the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,¹ including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

Recalling further the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,² the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”)³ and the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held at New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,⁴

Noting that one hundred and eighty-eight States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

Remaining deeply concerned that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks from the negative impacts of climate change,

Noting the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the need to build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Panel for the exchange of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries,

Noting also that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁵ has attracted one hundred and nineteen ratifications, including from parties mentioned in annex I to the Convention, who account for 44.2 per cent of emissions,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁶ in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,⁷

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,⁸

1. *Calls upon* States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;¹

2. *Notes* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁵ strongly urge States that have not already done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

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 1, annex.

³ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

⁴ FCCC/CP/2002/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.8.

⁵ FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

⁶ See resolution 55/2.

⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 23.

⁸ A/58/308.

3. *Notes with interest* the preparations undertaken for the implementation of the flexible mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol;

4. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,⁹ and the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹⁰ and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

6. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.