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THE PROBLEMS OF HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Colombia, Congo (Brazzaville), Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Guatemala, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Madagascar, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zambia:
draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Noting that the relationship between man and his environment is undergoing profound changes in the wake of modern scientific and technological developments,

Aware that these developments, while offering unprecedented opportunities to change and shape the environment of man to meet his needs and aspirations, also involve grave dangers if not properly controlled,

Noting, in particular, the continuing and accelerating impairment of the quality of the human environment caused by such factors as air and water pollution, erosion and other forms of soil deterioration, waste, noise and secondary effects of biocides, which are accentuated by rapidly increasing population and accelerating urbanization,

Concerned with the consequent effects on the condition of man, his physical, mental and social well-being, his dignity and his enjoyment of basic human rights, in developing as well as developed countries,

Convinced that increased attention to problems of the human environment is essential for sound economic and social development,

Expressing the strong hope that the developing countries will, through appropriate international co-operation, derive particular benefit from the mobilization of knowledge and experience about the problems of human environment, enabling them, inter alia, to forestall the occurrence of many such problems,

Having considered Economic and Social Council resolution 1346 (XLV) of 30 July 1968 on the question of convening an international conference on the problems of human environment,

Bearing in mind the important work on some problems of the human environment at present being undertaken by organizations in the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations (including the Economic Commission for Europe), the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, as referred to in the report of the Secretary-General on activities of United Nations organizations and programmes relevant to the human environment,^{1/}

Aware of the important work being done on problems of the human environment by Governments as well as by inter-governmental organizations such as the Organization of African Unity and non-governmental organizations such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the International Council of Scientific Unions and the International Biological Programme,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Conference of Experts on the Scientific Basis for Rational Use and Conservation of the Resources of the Biosphere,^{2/} convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, with the participation of the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization,

1/ E/4553.

2/ A/1291, annex.

Convinced of the need for intensified action at the national, regional and international level in order to limit and, where possible, to eliminate the impairment of the human environment and in order to protect and improve the natural surroundings in the interest of man,

Desiring to encourage further work in this field and to give it a common outlook and direction,

Believing it desirable to provide a framework for comprehensive consideration within the United Nations of the problems of human environment in order to focus the attention of Governments and public opinion on the importance and urgency of this question and also to identify those aspects of it that can only, or best, be solved through international co-operation and agreement,

1. Decides, in furtherance of the objectives set out above, to convene in 1972 a United Nations Conference on Human Environment;

2. Requests the Secretary-General in consultation with the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh session, a report concerning:

(a) The nature, scope and progress of work at present being done in the field of the human environment;

(b) The main problems facing developed and developing countries in this area, which might with particular advantage be considered at such a conference, including the possibilities for increased international co-operation in this area, especially as they relate to economic and social development, in particular of the developing countries;

(c) Possible methods of preparing for the Conference and the time necessary for such preparations;

(d) A possible time and place for the Conference;

(e) The range of financial implications for the United Nations of the holding of the Conference;

3. Further requests the Secretary-General, in preparing the report, to consult with Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency and with appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, and to draw on contributions from appropriate inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.

