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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: ENVIRONMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part X)Rapporteur: Mr. Ahmed Alawi AL-HADDAD (Democratic Yemen)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on item 80 (see A/39/790, para. 2). Action to be taken on sub-item (i) was considered at the 37th, 50th, 54th, 58th and 60th meetings, on 6, 26 and 30 November and 10 and 14 December. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/39/SR.37, 50, 54, 58 and 60).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.12 and Rev.1

2. At the 37th meeting, on 6 November, the representative of Malta introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/39/L.12) entitled "Remnants of war", on behalf of Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Cape Verde, the Comoros, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Mali, Mongolia and Sao Tome and Principe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 3435 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, 35/71 of 5 December 1980, 36/188 of 17 December 1981, 37/215 of 20 December 1982 and 38/162 of 19 December 1983 concerning the problem of remnants of war,

"Recalling also decisions 80 (IV) of 9 April 1976, 1/ 101 (V) of 25 May 1977, 2/ 9/5 of 25 May 1981 3/ and 10/8 of 28 May 1982 4/ of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

"Recalling further resolution 32 of the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo from 16 to 19 August 1976, 5/ and resolution 26/11-P of the Eleventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Islamabad from 17 to 22 May 1980, 6/

"Convinced that the responsibility for the removal of the remnants of war should be borne by the countries that planted them,

"Recognizing that the presence of the material remnants of war, including mines, in the territories of developing countries seriously impedes their development efforts and causes loss of life and property,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the problem of remnants of war; 7/

"2. Regrets that no concrete measures have been taken to solve the problem of remnants of war despite the various resolutions and decisions adopted thereon by the General Assembly and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/31/25), annex I.

2/ Ibid., Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/32/25), annex I.

3/ Ibid., Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/36/25 and Corr.1), annex I.

4/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25), part two, annex.

5/ See A/31/197, annex IV, sect. B.

6/ See A/35/419-S/14129, annex I.

7/ A/39/580.

"3. Reiterates its support for the just demands of the developing countries affected by the implantation of mines and the presence of other remnants of war in their territories for compensation and for complete removal of those obstacles by the States that implanted them;

"4. Requests the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system to collect the expertise and equipment necessary for evaluating, on request, the actual needs of the developing countries affected in their efforts to detect and clear material remnants of war;

"5. Calls upon all States to co-operate with the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system in carrying out the task assigned to them in paragraph 4 above;

"6. Also calls upon those developed countries directly responsible for the presence of remnants of war to intensify bilateral consultations with the aim of concluding, without undue delay, agreements for the solution of those problems;

"7. Requests all States to inform the Secretary-General of actions they have taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a detailed report on the replies received and action taken to the General Assembly at its fortieth session."

3. At its 54th meeting, on 30 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/39/L.12/Rev.1), submitted in the name of the sponsors listed in paragraph 2, who were joined by Suriname.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.12/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 105 to none, with 23 abstentions (see para. 21, draft resolution I). The result of the voting was as follows: 8/

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan,

8/ Subsequently, the representatives of Cyprus, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Sao Tome and Principe and Zambia stated that, had they been present at the time of the voting, their delegations would have voted in favour of the resolution.

Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

5. Statements were made by the representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany (also on behalf of Italy and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), India, Sweden, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/39/L.20, L.23 and L.92

6. At the 37th meeting, on 6 November, the representative of Uganda introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/39/L.20) entitled "Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification", on behalf of Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Subsequently, Liberia, Mozambique, Togo and Yemen joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977, by which it approved the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 9/

"Recalling also paragraph 8 of its resolution 38/165 of 19 December 1983, by which it welcomed the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme 10/ to devote two days, during its twelfth session, to a detailed assessment of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

"Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/65 of 26 July 1984 on the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

"Having considered the views of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the general assessment of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 1978-1984, 11/

"Having also considered Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/72 of 27 July 1984 on environment and development in Africa,

"Bearing in mind the current serious problem of prolonged drought and desertification which has contributed to the widespread economic catastrophe in a large number of African countries south of the Sahara,

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the views of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the general assessment of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 1978-1984;

9/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, Nairobi, 29 August-9 September 1977 (A/CONF.74/36), chap. I.

10/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/38/25), annex, decision 11/1, sect. VIII.

11/ UNEP/GC.12/9 and Corr.1.

"2. Also takes note with appreciation of the report of the Governing Council on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;" 12/

"3. Endorses Governing Council decision 12/10 of 28 May 1984 on desertification; 13/

"4. Notes with great concern that, during the seven years since the United Nations Conference on Desertification in 1977, desertification has continued to spread and intensify in developing countries, particularly in Africa;

"5. Welcomes the reconfirmation by the Governing Council of the validity of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the reaffirmation of the central role of UNEP in catalysing, co-ordinating and assessing the implementation of the Plan of Action at the international level, and the approval by the Governing Council of concrete, time-bound activities to combat desertification over the next fifteen years;

"6. Decides to expand the role of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, which is financed from voluntary contributions, to include explicitly responsibility for advising the Executive Director on:

"(a) The progress and effectiveness of activities implemented under the Plan of Action, identifying constraints and possible solutions to problems, taking account of relevant evaluations and case studies;

"(b) Programme priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme;

"(c) Measures required to improve implementation of the Plan of Action on a regional and world-wide basis;

"7. Calls upon the Consultative Group for Desertification Control to intensify further its efforts to assist the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Plan of Action;

"8. Urges Governments of countries suffering from or prone to desertification to accord priority to the combating of desertification in their development plans and in their requests for development assistance and to the establishment of national programmes to combat desertification, as well as to consider setting up appropriate national machinery or assigning responsibility to existing national machinery, where appropriate, to that end;

12/ A/39/433, annex I.

13/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/39/25), annex.

"9. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to examine, at its thirteenth session, the possibility of including the United Republic of Tanzania in the list of countries which receive assistance, through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, in implementing in the Sudano-Sahelian region the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

"10. Urges all Governments to increase their assistance, through appropriate channels, to countries suffering from desertification, including the financing of regional and subregional programmes, and to contribute to the Special Account created under General Assembly resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977;

"11. Endorses the decision of the Governing Council that a further overall assessment of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification should be carried out in 1992. 14/"

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the Niger introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/39/L.23) entitled "Implementation, in the Sudano-Sahelian region, of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification", on behalf of Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Mali and the Niger and orally revised it by replacing the word "satisfaction" in operative paragraph 3 by the word "appreciation" and reformulating operative paragraph 4 to read as follows:

"Expresses its appreciation also for the efficient and co-ordinated manner in which the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme have continued to develop this joint action through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office;"

Subsequently, Egypt, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Senegal and Togo joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which, as orally revised, read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 36/190 of 17 December 1981, 37/216 of 20 December 1982 and 38/164 of 19 December 1983,

"Taking note of the decision, dated 28 May 1984, of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme 15/ on the implementation, in the Sudano-Sahelian region, of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 16/

14/ Ibid., decision 12/10, para. 28.

15/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/39/25), annex.

16/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, Nairobi, 29 August-9 September 1977 (A/CONF.74/36), chap. I.

"Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/65, dated 26 July 1984, on the implementation, in the Sudano-Sahelian region, of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and Council resolution 1984/72, dated 27 July 1984, on the environment and development in Africa,

"Taking note also of the inclusion of Ghana and Togo in the list of countries to be covered by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office under the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

"Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation, in the Sudano-Sahelian region, of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

"Bearing in mind the special review undertaken by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme of the progress made in implementing the Plan of Action, based, inter alia, on the general assessment by the Executive Director of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action 17/ and on the relevant document on the assessment of desertification, in the Sudano-Sahelian region, 1978-1984,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation, in the Sudano-Sahelian region, of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

"2. Notes with concern:

"(a) That the persistent drought in the Sahel has intensified and spread into several parts of Africa, assuming the proportions of a generalized drought;

"(b) That the inadequacy of financial resources continues to place a serious constraint on the fight against desertification;

"3. Expresses its appreciation at the progress made towards overcoming these obstacles by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, as part of a joint action by the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme to assist the Governments of the region in combating desertification;

"4. Expresses its appreciation also for the efficient and co-ordinated manner in which the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme have continued to develop this joint action through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office;

"5. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to continue to provide and increase their support to the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in order to enable it to respond fully to the urgent needs of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region;

"6. Expresses its gratitude to the Governments, United Nations bodies, intergovernmental organizations and other organizations which have contributed to the implementation, in the Sudano-Sahelian region, of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

"7. Emphasizes the need to redouble the efforts in order to implement the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region, and urges all Governments to respond favourably to the requests submitted by the Governments of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region for assistance in combating desertification;

"8. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to make the necessary arrangements at each session for submitting a report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation, in the Sudano-Sahelian region, of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification."

8. At the 54th meeting, on 30 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/39/L.92) entitled "Plan of Action to Combat Desertification", submitted by Mr. Habib Kaabachi, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolutions A/C.2/39/L.20 and L.23.
9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.92 (see para. 21, draft resolution II).
10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Sweden (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway), Canada, the United States of America, Egypt and Senegal.
11. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.92, draft resolutions A/C.2/39/L.20 and L.23 were withdrawn by their sponsors.

C. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.24 and proposed amendment thereto contained in document A/C.2/39/L.55 and draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.24/Rev. 1

12. At the 37th meeting, on 6 November, the representative of Norway introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/39/L.24) entitled "International co-operation in the field of the environment" on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Indonesia, Kenya, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Senegal, the Sudan, Sweden and Zambia. Subsequently, Liberia, Oman and the Dominican Republic joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its twelfth session, 18/

"Taking note of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, 19/

"Recalling its resolution 38/165 of 19 December 1983, in which it reaffirmed the need for strengthening the co-ordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme and the need for additional resources to assist developing countries in dealing with their serious environmental problems,

"Recognizing the international dimension of environmental problems, the role of environmental factors in economic development, and the need to consider favourably the formulation and implementation of environmental policies and measures,

"Noting with deep concern that the drought now seriously affecting many African countries exacerbates and is exacerbated by the continued erosion of the natural resource base for development in those countries,

"Reiterating the importance of the environment in the context of development and the need to take environmental considerations fully into account in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, 20/

18/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/39/25).

19/ A/39/432.

20/ Resolution 35/56, annex.

"Noting with satisfaction that the dialogue between and among developed and developing countries is aimed, inter alia, at a better understanding of the important role of environmental issues in a broader economic and social context,

"Reaffirming the importance of the need to take into account the interrelationships between development, environment, population and resources,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its twelfth session and the decisions contained therein, 21/ and in this context decides:

"(a) To welcome the establishment of the Intergovernmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee of the Governing Council to assist the Governing Council in carrying out its mandate in regard to the preparation of the Environmental Perspective to the year 2000 and beyond; 22/

"(b) To recommend the appropriate bodies of the United Nations to take fully into account the report concerning the implementation of the environmental aspects of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade prepared under the aegis of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, 23/ together with the comments of the Governing Council thereon, 24/ in particular in the implementation of policy measures in the remaining period of the Decade;

"(c) To take note of Governing Council decision 12/3 A of 28 May 1984 on the environment in the dialogue between and among developed and developing countries, and encourages continued efforts in this direction;

"(d) To endorse Governing Council decision 12/4 of 28 May 1984, in which the Governing Council decided to extend the clearing-house experiment for three years within available voluntary resources, and expresses its appreciation to Governments and international organizations that financially support the experiment, and invites others to do likewise and to continue to facilitate within the framework of the clearing-house the provision of expert assistance;

21/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/39/25), annex.

22/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/38/25), annex, decision 11/3.

23/ UNEP/GC.12/8/Add.1 and Corr.1.

24/ UNEP/GC.12/19, chap. IV, paras. 11-15.

"(e) Also to endorse Governing Council decision 12/10 of 28 May 1984, by which the Governing Council, inter alia, called upon all countries to increase their assistance to countries suffering from desertification and urged Governments of affected countries to consider favourably giving priority to the establishment of national programmes to combat desertification;

"(f) To take note of the endorsement by the Governing Council, in section I of its decision 12/12 of 28 May 1984, of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals 25/ and, in section II of that decision, of the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the World Soils Policy, 26/ both of which provide a timely and valuable framework for policy planning and programme formulation by Governments and international organizations concerned;

"(g) To welcome Governing Council decision 12/17 of 28 May 1984, concerning efforts towards the strengthening of regional co-operation;

"(h) To take note of Governing Council decision 12/5 of 28 May 1984, in which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to treat the issue of population and the environment in the report on the state of the environment for the year 1985, in the light of the results of the International Conference on Population;

"(i) To take note of Governing Council decision 12/14 of 28 May 1984, concerning the progress made in the implementation of the environmental law programme, in particular the follow-up to the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law, held at Montevideo from 28 October to 6 November 1981; 27/

"2. Welcomes the establishment of the World Commission on Environment and Development;

"3. Considers that measures to deal with the critical economic and social situation in Africa in relation to the erosion of the natural resource base should have as one of its major aims the sustainable exploitation and increased productivity of the natural resource base of the continent;

"4. Notes with appreciation that a conference of African ministers on the environment is to be convened in 1985 as a co-operative effort of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa in order to identify and deal with the serious environmental problems of Africa within the framework of the Lagos

25/ UNEP/GC.12/15, annex I.

26/ UNEP/GC.12/14, annex I.

27/ UNEP/GC.10/5/Add.2, annex, chap. 1.

Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa 28/ and in the context of the economic and social crisis in Africa;

"5. Urges the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to give high priority to dealing with the most serious environmental problems of developing countries, in particular the recurrence of drought, desertification, deforestation, soil loss and water management;

"6. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments that continue to contribute to the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, particularly those that have increased their contributions;

"7. Notes with deep concern, however, the very meagre pledges to the Fund thus far received from Governments, and strongly appeals to those Governments that have not yet paid their contributions to the Fund for 1984 or made their pledges for 1985 to do so as soon as possible."

13. At the 50th meeting, on 26 November, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics introduced an amendment (A/C.2/39/L.55) to draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.24, which read as follows:

"Insert the following new paragraph between the fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs:

"Aware that the continuing increase in the production, stockpiling and risk of use of weapons of mass destruction and the development of new types of weapons not only pose a major threat to the environment and even to life on earth, but also compete for limited resources that could be better used for constructive purposes, including development."

14. Subsequently, the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.24 submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/39/L.24/Rev.1), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its twelfth session, 29/

"Taking note of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, 30/

28/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

29/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/39/25).

30/ A/39/432.

"Recalling its resolution 38/161 of 19 December 1983 concerning the process of preparation of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond,

"Recalling its resolution 38/165 of 19 December 1983, in which it, inter alia, reaffirmed the need for strengthening the co-ordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme and the need for additional resources to assist developing countries in dealing with their serious environmental problems,

"Recognizing the international dimension of environmental problems, the role of environmental factors in the broader economic and social context, and the need to consider favourably the formulation and implementation of environmental policies and measures,

"Noting with deep concern that the drought now seriously affecting many African countries exacerbates and is exacerbated by the continued erosion of the natural resource base for development in those countries,

"Reiterating the need to take environmental considerations fully into account in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, 31/

"Bearing in mind that the dialogue between and among developed and developing countries is aimed, inter alia, at a better understanding of the important role of environmental issues in a broader economic and social context,

"Reaffirming the importance of the need to take into account the interrelationships between development, environment, population and resources,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its twelfth session and the decisions contained therein, 32/ and in this context resolves:

"(a) To take note of section II of Governing Council decision 12/1 of 29 March 1984 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond;

"(b) To recommend the appropriate bodies of the United Nations to take fully into account the report concerning the implementation of the environmental aspects of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade prepared under the aegis of the

31/ Resolution 35/56, annex.

32/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/39/25), annex.

Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, 33/ together with the comments of the Governing Council thereon, 34/ in particular in the implementation of policy measures in the remaining period of the Decade;

"(c) To take note of Governing Council decision 12/3 A of 28 May 1984 on the environment in the dialogue between and among developed and developing countries, and encourages continued efforts in this direction;

"(d) To endorse Governing Council decision 12/4 of 28 May 1984, in which the Governing Council decided to extend the clearing-house experiment for three years within available voluntary resources, to express its appreciation to Governments and international organizations that financially support the experiment, to invite others to do likewise and to continue to facilitate within the framework of the clearing-house the provision of expert assistance;

"(e) Also to endorse Governing Council decision 12/10 of 28 May 1984, by which the Governing Council, inter alia, decided upon institutional reforms to enable the United Nations Environment Programme more effectively to promote implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 35/ called upon all countries to increase their assistance to countries suffering from desertification and urged Governments of affected countries to consider favourably giving priority to the establishment of national programmes to combat desertification;

"(f) To take note of the endorsement by the Governing Council, in section I of its decision 12/12 of 28 May 1984, of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals 36/ and, in section II of that decision, of the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the World Soils Policy, 37/ both of which provide a timely and valuable framework for policy planning and programme formulation by Governments and international organizations concerned;

"(g) To welcome Governing Council decision 12/17 of 28 May 1984, concerning efforts towards the strengthening of regional co-operation;

"(h) To take note of Governing Council decision 12/5 of 28 May 1984 on population and the environment;

33/ UNEP/GC.12/8/Add.1 and Corr.1.

34/ UNEP/GC.12/19, chap. IV, paras. 11-15.

35/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, Nairobi, 29 August-9 September 1977 (A/CONF.74/36), chap. I.

36/ UNEP/GC.12/15, annex I.

37/ UNEP/GC.12/14, annex I.

"(i) To take note of Governing Council decision 12/14 of 28 May 1984, concerning the progress made in the implementation of the environmental law programme, in particular the follow-up to the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law, held at Montevideo from 28 October to 6 November 1981; 38/

"2. Welcomes the establishment of the inter-sessional preparatory committee to assist the Governing Council in carrying out its mandate in regard to the preparation of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond;

"3. Welcomes also the establishment of the special commission referred to in General Assembly resolution 38/161, which should, inter alia, assist in the preparation of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and which has come to be known as the World Commission on Environment and Development;

"4. Considers that measures to deal with the critical economic and social situation in Africa in relation to the erosion of the natural resource base of the continent should have as one of their major aims the sustainable exploitation and increased productivity of that natural resource base;

"5. Notes with appreciation that a conference of African ministers on the environment is to be convened in 1985 as a co-operative effort of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa in order to identify and deal with the serious environmental problems of Africa within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa 39/ and in the context of the economic and social crisis in Africa;

"6. Reaffirms the need to strengthen the co-ordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme to assist developing countries of different regions in dealing with serious environmental problems;

"7. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments that continue to contribute to the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, particularly those that have increased their contributions;

"8. Notes with deep concern, however, the very meagre pledges to the Fund thus far received from Governments, and strongly appeals to those Governments that have not yet paid their contributions to the Fund for 1984 or made their pledges for 1985 to do so as soon as possible;

38/ UNEP/GC.10/5/Add.2, annex, chap. 1.

39/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

"9. Urges the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with Governments and international organizations concerned, to continue to intensify his efforts to ensure the provision of additional resources to assist developing countries in dealing with serious environmental problems."

15. At the 58th meeting, on 10 December, Mr. Habib Kaabachi, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, made a statement in which he informed the Committee on the outcome of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.24/Rev.1 and the proposed amendment (A/C.2/39/L.55).

16. After a statement made by the representative of Norway, the representative of Pakistan made a statement and proposed a revision to the amendment by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/C.2/39/L.55), which would then read as follows:

"Aware that the continuing arms accumulation in many regions of the world, as well as the risk of their use, constitute a major danger for the environment and compete for limited resources that could be better used for development."

17. After statements by the representatives of India, Norway, the German Democratic Republic, Saint Lucia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America, Bulgaria, Argentina, the Federal Republic of Germany, Uganda, Pakistan, Liberia, Brazil and Yugoslavia, the representative of Iraq proposed a revision to the revision proposed by Pakistan (see para. 16), which would then read as follows:

"Aware that the continuing stockpiling and risk of use of weapons of mass destruction in many regions of the world constitutes a major danger for the environment and competes for limited resources that could be better used for development."

18. The representative of Norway, on behalf of the sponsors, then withdrew draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.24/Rev.1.

D. Draft decision

19. At the 60th meeting, on 14 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth session 40/ and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on international conventions in the field of the environment (A/39/432) (see para. 22).

20. The representative of Australia made a statement.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

21. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Remnants of war

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3435 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, 35/71 of 5 December 1980, 36/188 of 17 December 1981, 37/215 of 20 December 1982 and 38/162 of 19 December 1983 concerning the problem of remnants of war,

Recalling also decisions 80 (IV) of 9 April 1976, 41/ 101 (V) of 25 May 1977, 42/ 9/5 of 25 May 1981 43/ and 10/8 of 28 May 1982 44/ of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling further resolution 32 adopted by the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo from 16 to 19 August 1976, 45/ and resolution 26/11-P adopted by the Eleventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Islamabad from 17 to 22 May 1980, 46/

Convinced that the responsibility for the removal of the remnants of war should be borne by the countries that planted them,

Recognizing that the presence of the material remnants of war, including mines, in the territories of developing countries seriously impedes their development efforts and causes loss of life and property,

41/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/31/25), annex I.

42/ Ibid., Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/32/25), annex I.

43/ Ibid., Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/36/25 and Corr.1), annex I.

44/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25), part two, annex.

45/ See A/31/197, annex IV, sect. B.

46/ See A/35/419-S/14129, annex I.

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the problem of remnants of war; 47/
2. Regrets that no concrete measures have been taken to solve the problem of remnants of war despite the various resolutions and decisions adopted thereon by the General Assembly and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;
3. Reiterates its support of the just demands of the developing countries affected by the implantation of mines and the presence of other remnants of war in their territories for compensation and for complete removal of those obstacles by the States that implanted them;
4. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations of the United Nations system, within their mandates, to collect all information on expertise and available equipment, so as to evaluate, on request, the actual needs of the developing countries affected and to assist those countries in their efforts to detect and clear material remnants of war;
5. Calls upon all States to co-operate with the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system in carrying out the task assigned to them in paragraph 4 above;
6. Also calls upon those developed countries directly responsible for the presence of remnants of war to intensify bilateral consultations with the aim of concluding, without undue delay, agreements for the solution of those problems;
7. Requests all States to inform the Secretary-General of actions they have taken in the implementation of the present resolution;
8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a detailed and comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

A

Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977, by which it approved the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 48/

Recalling also paragraph 8 of its resolution 38/165 of 19 December 1983, by which it welcomed section VIII of decision 11/1 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme 49/ to devote two days, during its twelfth session, to a detailed assessment of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/65 of 26 July 1984 on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Having considered the views of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the general assessment of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 1978-1984, 50/

Having also considered Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/72 of 27 July 1984 on environment and development in Africa,

Bearing in mind the current serious problem of prolonged drought and desertification that has contributed to the widespread economic catastrophe in a large number of African countries south of the Sahara,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the views of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the general assessment of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 1978-1984;

2. Also takes note with appreciation of the report of the Governing Council on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification; 51/

3. Takes note with interest of Governing Council decision 12/10 of 28 May 1984 on desertification; 52/

48/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, Nairobi, 29 August-9 September 1977 (A/CONF.74/36), chap. I.

49/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/38/25), annex, decision 11/1, sect. VIII.

50/ UNEP/GC.12/9 and Corr.1.

51/ A/39/433, annex I.

52/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/39/25), annex.

4. Notes with great concern that, during the seven years since the United Nations Conference on Desertification in 1977, desertification has continued to spread and intensify in developing countries, particularly in Africa;

5. Welcomes the reconfirmation by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme of the validity of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the reaffirmation of the central role of the Programme in catalysing, co-ordinating and assessing the implementation of the Plan of Action at the international level, and the approval by the Governing Council of concrete, time-bound activities to combat desertification over the next fifteen years;

6. Decides to expand the role of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, which is financed from voluntary contributions, to include explicitly responsibility for advising the Executive Director on:

(a) The progress and effectiveness of activities implemented under the Plan of Action, identifying constraints and possible solutions to problems, taking account of relevant evaluations and case studies;

(b) Programme priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme related to problems of desertification;

(c) Measures required to improve implementation of the Plan of Action on a regional and world-wide basis;

7. Calls upon the Consultative Group for Desertification Control to intensify further its efforts to assist the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Plan of Action;

8. Urges Governments of countries prone to or suffering from desertification to give priority to the establishment of national programmes to combat desertification and to consider setting up appropriate national machinery or assigning responsibility to existing national machinery, where appropriate, to that end;

9. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to examine, at its thirteenth session, the possibility of:

(a) The inclusion of reference to the United Republic of Tanzania in the terms of reference of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in order to enable that country to receive assistance in the implementation of programmes for combating desertification;

(b) The expansion of the scope of the work of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office so as to enable it to assist the States members of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference in implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme on combating

desertification and drought, in the same way as the Office is currently assisting the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel;

10. Urges all Governments to increase their assistance, inter alia, by financing regional and subregional programmes, through appropriate channels, including the Special Account created under General Assembly resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977, to countries suffering from desertification;

11. Endorses the decision of the Governing Council in paragraph 28 of its decision 12/10 that a further overall assessment of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification should be carried out in 1992. 52/

B

Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the
Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 36/190 of 17 December 1981, 37/216 of 20 December 1982 and 38/164 of 19 December 1983,

Taking note of decision 12/10 of 28 May 1984 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme 52/ on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 48/

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1984/65 of 26 July 1984 on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and 1984/72 of 27 July 1984 on the environment and development in Africa,

Taking note also of the inclusion of Ghana and Togo in the list of countries to be covered by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office under the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 53/

Bearing in mind the special review undertaken by the Governing Council of the progress made in implementing the Plan of Action, based, inter alia, on the general assessment by the Executive Director of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action, 1978-1984, 50/ and on the relevant document on the assessment of desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region,

Aware that the prime responsibility in the struggle against desertification and the effects of drought rests upon the countries concerned, and noting the efforts of those countries to combat desertification and drought,

1. Takes note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

2. Notes with concern:

(a) That the persistent drought in the Sahel has intensified and spread into other parts of Africa, assuming the catastrophic proportions of a generalized drought;

(b) That the inadequacy of financial resources continues to place a serious constraint on the fight against desertification;

(c) That struggle against desertification requires financial and human resources beyond the means of the affected countries;

3. Expresses its appreciation of the progress made towards overcoming these obstacles by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, as part of a joint action by the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme to assist the Governments of the region in combating desertification;

4. Expresses its appreciation also for the efficient and co-ordinated manner in which the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme have continued to develop this joint action through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office;

5. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to continue to provide and increase their support to the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in order to enable it to respond fully to the urgent needs of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region;

6. Expresses its gratitude to the Governments, United Nations bodies, intergovernmental organizations and other organizations which have contributed to the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

7. Emphasizes the need to redouble the efforts in order to implement the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region and urges all Governments to respond favourably to the requests submitted by the Governments of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region for assistance in combating desertification;

8. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to make the necessary arrangements at each session for submitting a report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

* * *

22. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Environment

The General Assembly decides to take note of:

(a) The report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth session; 54/

(b) The note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment. 55/

54/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/39/25).

55/ A/39/432.