

aster management training capabilities and opportunities for such training which could be offered to officials from developing countries;

11. *Requests* the Co-ordinator to review and improve, if necessary with the assistance of specialists made available by appropriate international bodies, the internal evaluation system of the Office of the Co-ordinator in order to ensure that experience obtained from disaster relief operations is fully taken into account in the future work of the Office;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of disaster prevention and preparedness at the regional and national levels in mitigating the effects of disasters, appreciates the work which the Office of the Co-ordinator has performed in this area as far as the resources available in the Trust Fund of the Office have allowed, and encourages Governments to continue to draw upon the services available from the Office and other organizations concerned and to provide the necessary resources for this aspect of technical co-operation;

13. *Requests* the Office of the Co-ordinator to increase its fund-raising efforts through the means available to it;

14. *Emphasizes* the essential need for the work of the Office of the Co-ordinator to be placed and kept on a sound financial basis and requests the Secretary-General to assign a higher priority to this;

15. *Reiterates* in particular its appeals to the international community in resolutions 35/107 of 5 December 1980, 36/225 of 17 December 1981, 37/144 of 17 December 1982 and 38/202 of 20 December 1983 for urgent increased contributions to the Trust Fund established pursuant to its resolution 3243 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 for the purposes set out in the reports of the Secretary-General concerning the activities of the Office of the Co-ordinator.

*103rd plenary meeting
17 December 1984*

39/208. Countries stricken by desertification and drought

The General Assembly.

Deeply concerned about the tragic consequences of the acceleration of desertification, combined with a persistent drought — the most serious recorded this century — which have been reflected in a substantial drop in agricultural production in many developing countries and which, in particular, have contributed to the worsening of Africa's current economic crisis,

Noting with great anxiety that desertification continues to spread and intensify in developing countries, particularly in Africa,

Deeply alarmed by recent trends indicating that far-reaching climatic changes have taken place in Africa and are making the current situation extremely critical, as demonstrated, in particular, by the disturbing outlook noted by the Scientific Round Table on the Climatic Situation and Drought in Africa held at Addis Ababa from 20 to 23 February 1984,¹³⁰

Recalling its resolutions 32/172 of 19 December 1977, 35/73 of 5 December 1980, 38/163 and 38/164 of 19 December 1983 and 38/225 of 20 December 1983,

Aware that desertification and drought problems are increasingly assuming a structural and endemic character

and that real and permanent solutions must be found in increased global efforts based on concerted action by the stricken countries and the international community,

Bearing in mind that the majority of the countries affected by desertification and drought are low-income countries and, for the most part, belong to the group of the least developed countries, particularly those in Africa,

Noting the efforts made by the affected countries themselves and by the international community, including the organizations of the United Nations system, to combat desertification and drought, particularly in Africa,

Bearing in mind the results of the Ministerial Conference for a joint policy to combat desertification in the countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Economic Community of West African States, in the Maghreb countries and in Egypt and the Sudan, held at Dakar from 18 to 27 July 1984,¹³¹

Aware that the prime responsibility in the struggle against desertification and the effects of the drought rests with the countries concerned and that such action is an essential component of their development,

Considering the interdependence between developed countries and those affected by desertification and drought, and the negative impact of those phenomena on the economies of the countries concerned,

Noting the positive action taken by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office as part of a joint effort by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme to help twenty-one African countries, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, in implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,¹³²

Welcoming the praiseworthy efforts of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel in fighting the drought in the Sahel region and its fruitful co-operation with Governments and with organizations and agencies of the United Nations system,

Taking note of the decision made by six East African countries — Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda — to set up an intergovernmental body in order to combat the effects of the drought in those countries,¹³³

Recognizing that, given the scope and intensity of desertification, the attainment of the objectives of programmes to fight it requires financial and human resources beyond the means of the affected countries,

1. *Welcomes* the results of the Ministerial Conference for a joint policy to combat desertification in the countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Economic Community of West African States, in the Maghreb countries and in Egypt and the Sudan, convened at Dakar on the initiative of the President of Senegal, and notes with satisfaction the final resolution adopted by the Conference;¹³¹

2. *Recommends* that high priority should be given in the development plans and programmes of the affected countries themselves to the problem of desertification and to problems resulting from drought;

3. *Recognizes* that particular attention should be given to countries stricken by desertification and drought and that special efforts should be made by the international community, particularly the developed countries, in sup-

¹³⁰ See E/1984/109, annex.

¹³¹ See A/39/530, annex.

¹³² Report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, Nairobi, 29 August–9 September 1977 (A/CONF.74/36), chap. I.

¹³³ See A/C.2/39/5, annex.

port of action taken individually or collectively by the affected countries;

4. *Recommends* that the international community, above all the developed countries, should continue to provide coherent short-term, medium-term and long-term assistance to the countries stricken by desertification and drought in order to support effectively the rehabilitation process — in particular through intensive reforestation — and the renewal of growth of agricultural production in the affected countries, particularly in Africa;

5. *Recommends* that, within the framework of bilateral and multilateral aid programmes, the fight against desertification and drought should be granted priority in view of the extent of those problems;

6. *Takes note* of decision 12/10 of 28 May 1984 on desertification, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,¹³⁴ calls for its full and speedy implementation, requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to have the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office establish specific biennial programmes for the ongoing implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, with the requirement that these programmes be submitted for the consideration and joint approval of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, and, lastly, emphasizes the urgent need for increased financial support by the international community for the activities of the Office and of the United Nations Environment Programme;

7. *Emphasizes* the fundamental importance of all forms of South-South co-operation in executing programmes to combat desertification and drought;

8. *Appeals* to all members of the international community, organs and agencies of the United Nations system, regional and subregional financial institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, to continue to provide full support, in all forms — including financial, technical, or any other form of assistance — to the development efforts of countries stricken by desertification and drought;

9. *Welcomes* the decision of the Trade and Development Board to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to prepare a study on the impact of desertification and drought on the external trade of the countries affected;¹³⁵

10. *Requests* the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations to provide the Secretary-General with all relevant studies carried out in their respective spheres of competence, in particular with respect to food and agricultural production, development of water resources, industrialization and raw materials, for transmission to the stricken countries;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that in the activities of the organs and agencies of the United Nations, emphasis should also be placed on scientific knowledge of the causes and effects of the phenomena of desertification and drought and on the use of the most appropriate technology to overcome them;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to place greater emphasis on the situation and prospects of the countries

stricken by desertification and drought in the *World Economic Survey*;

13. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps to ensure the implementation of the different activities mentioned above and to report to the General Assembly, at its fortieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the evolution of the situation in these countries, and to formulate proposals for specific, co-ordinated action.

103rd plenary meeting
17 December 1984

39/209. Specific action related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries

The General Assembly.

Reiterating the specific actions related to the particular needs of the land-locked developing countries stated in resolutions 63 (III) of 19 May 1972,¹³⁶ 98 (IV) of 31 May 1976,¹³⁷ 123 (V) of 3 June 1979¹³⁸ and 137 (VI) of 2 July 1983¹³⁹ of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Recalling the provisions of its resolutions 31/157 of 21 December 1976, 32/191 of 19 December 1977, 33/150 of 20 December 1978, 34/198 of 19 December 1979, 35/58 of 5 December 1980 and 36/175 of 17 December 1981 and other resolutions of the United Nations relating to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries,

Bearing in mind various other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, its related organs and the specialized agencies, emphasizing special and urgent measures in favour of land-locked developing countries,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,¹⁴⁰

Recalling the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,¹⁴¹ adopted on 10 December 1982,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness and isolation from world markets, and the prohibitive transit, transport and trans-shipment costs impose serious constraints on the socio-economic development of land-locked developing countries,

Noting with concern that the measures taken so far in favour of land-locked developing countries and the assistance given fall far short of their needs,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of access of land-locked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit States by all means of transport, in accordance with article 125 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

2. *Appeals* to all States, international organizations and financial institutions to implement, as a matter of urgency and priority, the specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries envisaged in resolution 63 (III), 98 (IV), 123 (V) and 137 (VI) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in the International Development Strategy

¹³⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/39/25)*, annex.

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 15 (A/39/15), vol. II, sect. II.A, resolution 295 (XXIX), para. 6.

¹³⁶ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Third Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.D.4), annex 1.A.

¹³⁷ *Ibid.*, Fourth Session, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.D.10 and corrigendum), part one, sect. A.

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*, Fifth Session, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.II.D.14), part one, sect. A.

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*, Sixth Session, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.D.6), part one, sect. A.

¹⁴⁰ See resolution 35/56, annex.

¹⁴¹ *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.