



General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITEDA/C.2/44/L.63/Rev.1
16 December 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fourth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Item 82 (f)DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION:
ENVIRONMENTDraft resolution submitted by Denmark, Finland, Iceland,
Norway and Sweden: revised draft resolutionInternational co-operation in the field of the environment

Deeply concerned at the increasing degradation of the environment which, if allowed to continue, could endanger not only economic and social development but the very basis of life itself,

Noting the increased political interest in solving environmental problems and intensified international co-operation to that effect,

Welcoming that there have been encouraging developments in some important areas of environmental co-operation,

Reaffirming that there is a direct interrelationship between environment and development, and recognizing also that a favourable international economic environment that results in sustained economic growth and development, particularly in developing countries, is of major importance for sound management of the environment,

Reaffirming the importance of integrating environmental concerns and considerations into policies and programmes in all countries without introducing a new form of conditionality in aid or development financing or constituting a pretext for unjustified barriers to trade,

Noting the fact that the largest part of the current emission of pollutants into the environment, including toxic and hazardous wastes, originates in developed countries, and recognizing that those countries therefore have the main responsibility for combating such pollution,

Recognizing that serious environmental problems are arising for all countries and that those problems must be progressively addressed through preventive measures at their sources by national efforts and international co-operation,

Reaffirming also the need for developed countries and appropriate international organs and organizations to strengthen technical co-operation with developing countries, increase the transfer of technology and provide additional resources enhancing the capacity of developing countries to solve their environmental problems,

Recognizing that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 is a unique opportunity for all nations to address environmental and development issues in an integrated manner and to mobilize their political will to solve environmental problems through international co-operation,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its fifteenth session,

1. Notes with appreciation the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its fifteenth session;

2. Reaffirms the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme as defined in General Assembly decision 2997/72 and supports further strengthening of the role of the Environment Programme as the central catalyzing, co-ordinating and stimulating body in the field of the environment within the United Nations system;

3. Welcomes the steps taken by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to improve its own effectiveness and efficiency in its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989;

4. Reaffirms that the United Nations system, through the General Assembly, due to its universal character, is the appropriate forum for concerted political action on global environmental problems;

5. Considers further that the structure and responsiveness of the United Nations to deal with major environmental issues should be reviewed in order to strengthen its capacity in dealing with these matters in an integrated, coherent and effective way and requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on this issue taking into account the views expressed by Governments, to be considered in the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

6. Takes note of the areas of concentration for the international community set out by the Governing Council in its decision 15/1, Section IV, and with the list of issues within those areas which are not listed in any particular order of priority to which the United Nations Environment Programme should give special attention;

/...

7. Takes note of the Governing Council decision 15/4 of 26 May 1989 and decides to hold a special session in 1990 of three days duration at the same location, and in conjunction with the first substantive session of the preparatory committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which, at its organizational session, should bear this issue in mind with a view to achieving an effective preparatory process for the Conference. This special session should deal with the elaboration of and the process of making and implementing decisions on priority environmental issues, in particular ways and means of enhancing the role of the United Nations Environment Programme within the United Nations system in addressing those issues;

8. Reaffirms the need to provide new and additional financial resources to support developing countries in identifying, analysing, monitoring, preventing and managing environmental problems primarily at their source, in accordance with their national development goals, objectives and plans, so as to ensure that their development priorities are not adversely affected;

9. Stresses the need for new and additional financial resources for measures towards solving major environmental problems of global concern, and especially to support those countries, in particular developing countries for whom the implementation of such measures would entail a special or abnormal burden, in particular due to their lack of financial resources, expertise and/or technical capacity;

10. Expresses its appreciation at indications that the flow of resources to the United Nations Environment Fund is increasing in real terms, and endorses the annual target of a minimum of one hundred million United States dollars in contributions by the year 1992, taking into account the increasing tasks of the United Nations Environment Programme, and calls upon all Governments to contribute or increase their contributions to the Fund by at least thirty-five per cent per annum from the 1 January 1989 level to enable that target to be met by 1992;

11. Endorses the views and suggestions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme as expressed in its decision 15/2 on the implementation of resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987 as a positive step towards a better understanding of the concept of sustainable and environmentally sound development by all countries;

12. Takes note of the recommendation made by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in its decision 15/5 of 25 May 1989 and stresses that sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries should become one of the central guiding principles in the international development strategy being elaborated for the fourth United Nations development decade;

13. Concurs with Governing Council decision 15/14 of 25 May 1989 on the clearing-house function, in which it is proposed that the United Nations Environment Programme should play a more vigorous role in supporting developing countries, upon their request, in the following undertakings:

/...

(a) To establish and strengthen their institutions and professional capacities to integrate environmental considerations into their development policies and planning;

(b) To formulate and initiate programmes and activities for dealing with their most serious environmental problems;

(c) To formulate and participate in action plans for the common management of ecosystems and critical environmental problems at the national, regional and global levels;

14. Stresses that sustainable and environmentally sound development requires changes in existing production and consumption patterns, in particular in industrialized countries, and the development of environmentally sound technologies, ensuring transfer and favourable access, including on a concessional and non-commercial basis, to such technologies, with an emphasis on new and emerging ones, in particular by developing countries, and supporting research and development efforts by developing countries to enhance their capabilities to develop and apply such technologies;

15. Takes note of the decision 15/24 of 25 May 1989 of the Governing Council on sustainable agriculture and calls upon the Governing Council to pay special attention to its implementation;

16. Reaffirms the urgent need for Governments, multilateral organizations and governmental and non-governmental financial institutions to take into account in their policies, decision-making processes and financial mechanisms the relationship between the foreign debt and the ability of developing countries to strengthen their capacity to address the critical environmental issues fundamental to development and protection of the environment;

17. Urges the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to take the necessary steps to ensure the scientific and policy participation of developing countries in its work, and calls upon the international community, in particular the developed countries, to consider contributing generously to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change trust fund with a view to financing the participation of experts designated by Governments of the developing countries in all the meetings of the Panel including its working groups and sub-groups;

18. Supports the request made by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in its decision 15/36, that the Executive Director of the Programme, in co-operation with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, begin preparations for negotiations on a framework convention on climate, taking into account the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and its interim report, as well as the results achieved at international meetings on the subject, including the Second World Climate Conference, and recommends that such negotiations begin as soon as possible after the adoption of the interim report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and that the General Assembly at an early date during its forty-fifth session take a decision recommending ways and means and modalities for further pursuing these negotiations,

/...

taking into account the work of the Preparatory Committee for the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development;

19. Notes with satisfaction the progress made on the protection of the ozone layer and urges all States to co-operate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the process of strengthening the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in the light of the Helsinki Declaration on the Protection of the Ozone Layer of 2 May 1989, emphasizes the importance of taking into account the special needs and requirements of developing countries and developing appropriate funding mechanisms in order to enable all, and in particular developing countries, to participate effectively in the revised protocol;

20. Notes further the adoption, on 22 March 1989, of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and calls upon all States to consider signing the Basel Convention without prejudice to the final position to be adopted by regional organizations in this regard and to strengthen their co-operation in problem areas within the scope of the Convention;

21. Supports Governing Council decision 15/23 of 25 May 1989 on drought and desertification in which the Council, inter alia invites donor Governments and intergovernmental bodies to accord high priority in their bilateral and multilateral assistance to national programmes for combating desertification and for the rehabilitation of land resources;

22. Considers the conservation and utilization of biological diversity to be a priority issue, an important element of ecological balance and as a source of benefit to mankind and welcomes decision 15/34 of 25 May 1989 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

23. Notes the consideration given by the Governing Council in its decision 15/10 of 25 May 1989 to the proposed establishment of a United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance and further notes the information provided by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the preliminary results of his consultations regarding the views expressed by Governments and organizations on this matter bearing in mind the mandate of UNEP, UNDRO, WMO, IMO, IAEA as well as other relevant United Nations specialized agencies and bodies;

24. Expresses its satisfaction at the impetus given to addressing environmental concerns through meetings at the regional level and calls on the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations to continue to play an effective role in this regard.
