

the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, on the potential global problem of sea-level rise, and taking note, in this connection, of decision 15/36 of 25 May 1989 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on global climate change,⁴⁷

Noting also the concern expressed in the Final Communiqué of the Twentieth South Pacific Forum, held at Tarawa, Kiribati, on 10 and 11 July 1989, at the possible effects on island countries of rising sea levels resulting from global warming,⁴⁸

Noting further the support expressed in the Langkawi Declaration on Environment, adopted by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on 21 October 1989, for low-lying and island countries in their efforts to protect themselves and their vulnerable natural marine ecosystems from the effects of sea-level rise,⁴⁹

Taking note of the Malé Declaration on Global Warming and Sea Level Rise, adopted by the Small States Conference on Sea Level Rise, held at Malé, Maldives, from 14 to 18 November 1989,⁵⁰ in which the participants declared their intent to work, collaborate and seek international co-operation to protect the low-lying small coastal and island States of the world from the dangers posed by climate change, global warming and sea-level rise,

Expressing concern that sea-level rise resulting from global climate change could lead, *inter alia*, to abnormally high tides, which could intensify flooding and the erosion of coastal areas and damage infrastructure on islands and in low-lying coastal areas,

1. *Welcomes* the growing attention being given worldwide to the potentially serious effects on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas, of sea-level rise resulting from climate change;

2. *Urges* the international community to provide effective and timely support to countries affected by sea-level rise, particularly developing countries, in their efforts to develop and implement strategies to protect themselves and their vulnerable natural marine ecosystems from the particular threats of sea-level rise caused by climate change;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and, through them, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to take account in their work of the particular situation of islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas, by undertaking further scientific studies and by seeking ways to address the problems of sea-level rise, *inter alia*, by providing expertise, as requested, in accordance with their specific mandates, for improved management of coastal zones;

4. *Recommends* that the vulnerability of affected countries and their marine ecosystems to sea-level rise be considered during discussions of a draft framework convention on climate as well as within the framework of the United Nations conference on environment and development to be held in 1992 and during the preparatory process for the conference;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic

and Social Council and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme.

85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989

44/207. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/53 of 6 December 1988, in which it recognized climate change as a common concern of mankind,

Taking note of decision 15/36 of 25 May 1989 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on global climate change,⁴⁷

Taking note of the message of the Chairman of the Conference on Saving the Ozone Layer, held in London from 5 to 7 March 1989,⁵¹ the Declaration of The Hague endorsed by 24 heads of State or Government or their representatives at The Hague on 11 March 1989,⁵² the Helsinki Declaration on the Protection of the Ozone Layer adopted on 2 May 1989,⁵³ the relevant parts of the Langkawi Declaration on Environment issued by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on 21 October 1989,⁵⁴ the Declaration adopted at Noordwijk, the Netherlands, by the Ministerial Conference on Atmospheric Pollution and Climate Change, held on 6 and 7 November 1989,⁵⁵ and relevant parts of the Caracas Declaration adopted at the special ministerial meeting of the Group of Seventy-seven, held at Caracas from 21 to 23 June 1989,⁵⁶

Taking note of the relevant declarations and decisions adopted at intergovernmental regional meetings during 1989, including the Amazon Declaration, adopted by the Presidents of the States parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation at Manaus, Brazil, on 6 May 1989,⁵⁷ the Declaration of Brasilia, issued at the Sixth Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Brasilia on 30 and 31 March 1989,⁵⁸ and the relevant parts of the Final Communiqué of the Twentieth South Pacific Forum, held at Tarawa, Kiribati, on 10 and 11 July 1989,⁵⁹

Noting that, in the Economic Declaration adopted in Paris on 16 July 1989, at the Summit of the seven major industrial nations, the heads of State or Government of those countries and the President of the Commission of the European Communities supported the decision of the World Meteorological Organization to establish a global reference network to detect climate change, agreed that a framework convention on climate was urgently required and recognized that specific protocols with commitments could develop within this framework,⁶⁰

Taking note of the final documents of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989,⁶¹ which, *inter alia*, emphasized that necessary and timely action should be taken to deal with climate changes and their consequences within a global framework and, in this

⁴⁷ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/44/25)*, annex I.

⁴⁸ A/44/463, annex, para. 20.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 8 (k).

⁵⁰ A/C.2/44/7, annex.

⁵¹ See UNEP/OzL.Pro.1/5, para. 11.

⁵² A/44/340-E/1989/120, annex.

⁵³ UNEP/OzL.Pro.1/5, appendix I.

⁵⁴ A/44/673, annex.

⁵⁵ A/C.2/44/5, annex.

⁵⁶ A/44/361, annex.

⁵⁷ A/44/275-E/1989/79, annex.

⁵⁸ A/44/683, annex.

⁵⁹ A/44/463, annex.

⁶⁰ See A/C.2/44/11, annex, paras. 40-51.

⁶¹ A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

context; called for the preparation and adoption of a framework convention on climate on an urgent basis in conformity with General Assembly resolution 43/53,

Recognizing the need for additional research and scientific studies into all sources, causes and effects of climate change,

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

Recognizing the need for international collaboration with a view to adopting effective measures on the question of climate change, within a global framework and taking into account the particular needs and development priorities of developing countries,

Concerned that the participation of the developing countries in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change remains limited, and stressing the need for the Intergovernmental Panel, in view of its intergovernmental nature, to do all that it can to ensure adequate participation and governmental involvement in its activities in accordance with United Nations practice,

1. *Emphasizes* the need to address with urgency the question of climate change as reflected in the conclusions of various important international meetings;

2. *Recommends* that Governments, with due consideration for the need for increased scientific knowledge of the sources, causes and impact of climate change and of global, regional and local climates, continue and, wherever possible, increase their activities in support of the World Climate Programme and the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, including the monitoring of atmospheric composition and climate conditions, and also recommends that the international community support efforts by developing countries to participate in these scientific activities;

3. *Urges* Governments, in keeping with their national policies, priorities and regulations, and intergovernmental organizations to collaborate in making every possible effort to limit, reduce and prevent activities that could adversely affect climate, and calls upon non-governmental organizations, industry and other productive sectors to play their due role;

4. *Reaffirms* that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources in accordance with their environmental policies, and also reaffirms their responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to play their due role in preserving and protecting the global and regional environment in accordance with their capacities and specific responsibilities;

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

6. *Welcomes* the joint efforts of the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme in providing support to the urgent work being undertaken by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and its three working groups established to assess scientific information on, and the social and economic im-

pact of, climate change and to formulate response strategies;

7. *Invites* all Governments, as well as relevant inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, to support fully and participate actively in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel;

8. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Trust Fund and the contributions made to it;

9. *Urges* the Intergovernmental Panel to take the necessary steps to ensure the participation of developing countries in scientific and policy aspects of its work, and calls upon the international community, in particular the developed countries, to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund, with a view to financing the participation of experts designated by Governments of developing countries in all the meetings of the Intergovernmental Panel, including its working groups and subgroups;

10. *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, 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 and that the General Assembly, at an early date during its forty-fifth session, take a decision recommending ways and means and modalities for pursuing these negotiations further, taking into account the work of the preparatory committee for the United Nations conference on environment and development to be held in 1992;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate for the information of delegations the reports of the third and fourth plenary meetings of the Intergovernmental Panel, as well as its interim report, as official documents of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

12. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions to collaborate in efforts to prepare, as a matter of urgency, a framework convention on climate and associated protocols containing concrete commitments in the light of priorities that may be authoritatively identified on the basis of sound scientific knowledge, and taking into account the specific development needs of developing countries;

13. *Recommends* that Governments and competent intergovernmental organizations consider, while awaiting the outcome of the negotiations, the range of possible options for averting the potentially damaging impact of climate change, for removing the causes of the phenomenon and for developing programmes for implementing those options which respond more appropriately to national needs as outlined in paragraphs 11 (a) to (f) of decision 15/36 of the Governing Council;

14. *Encourages* Governments and relevant international organizations to further the development of international funding mechanisms, taking account of proposals for a climate fund and other innovative ideas and bearing in mind 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 national development goals, objectives and plans, so

as to ensure that development priorities are not adversely affected;

15. *Decides* that the concept of assured access for developing countries to environmentally sound technologies and assured transfer of those technologies to developing countries on favourable terms and the relation of that concept to intellectual property rights should be explored in the context of the elaboration of a framework convention on climate, with a view to developing effective responses to the needs of developing countries in this area;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of ongoing intergovernmental and other efforts in this field, to continue his support for the formulation and implementation of strategies to respond to climate change;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, as well as intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and scientific institutions with expertise in matters concerning climate;

18. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Decides* to include this question in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session, without prejudice to the application of the principle of biennialization.

85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989

44/208. United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities

The General Assembly,

Noting the importance of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities,

Bearing in mind the need for the Conference, the principal occasion for Member States and others to announce their contributions to the operational activities of the United Nations system, to continue to be managed as effectively as possible,

Requests the Secretary-General to examine the modalities of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities and to make recommendations on future administrative arrangements for the Conference to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990, for transmission to the 1990 Conference and to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, as appropriate, including the following arrangements:

(a) Sessional arrangements for the Conference, including the possibility of shortening it, and its timing, bearing in mind the budgetary cycles of Governments;

(b) Procedures for making pledges, including the greater use of written pledges, as appropriate;

(c) Formalization of and rationalization of procedures for the Final Act of the Conference.

85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989

44/209. Fortieth anniversary of multilateral technical co-operation for development within the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Noting that 1990 will be the fortieth anniversary of multilateral technical co-operation for development within the United Nations system, which commenced with the establishment of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance⁶² and the Special Fund,⁶³ the two programmes later consolidated into the United Nations Development Programme,⁶⁴

Taking note of decisions 89/68 of 30 June 1989 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme²⁷ and 1989/187 of 28 July 1989 of the Economic and Social Council,

1. *Decides* to observe, during its forty-fifth session, the fortieth anniversary of multilateral technical co-operation for development within the United Nations system in a manner befitting the role and achievements of such co-operation, and also decides that Wednesday, 24 October 1990, United Nations Day, shall be the day for the commemoration of this anniversary;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to make the necessary preparations for the celebration of the anniversary, and also invites all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system engaged in technical co-operation to contribute to the preparations.

85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989

44/210. Future needs in the field of population, including the development of resource requirements for international population assistance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action,⁶⁵ which were affirmed and expanded at the International Conference on Population,⁶⁶

Recalling decision 87/30 of 18 June 1987 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, in which the Governing Council welcomed the intention of the United Nations Population Fund to conduct a wide-ranging review and assessment of accumulated population experience in key areas within its mandate,⁶⁷

Recalling also its resolution 43/199 of 20 December 1988, in which it welcomed the review and assessment being conducted by the United Nations Population Fund of its experience in the field of population and requested that an appropriate summary of the main findings, conclusions and recommendations be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session,

⁶² Resolution 304 (IV).

⁶³ Resolution 1240 (XIII).

⁶⁴ Resolution 2029 (XX).

⁶⁵ See *Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

⁶⁶ See *Report of the International Conference on Population, Mexico City, 6-14 August 1984* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.8 and corrigenda).

⁶⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 12 and corrigendum (E/1987/25 and Corr.1), annex I.*