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UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, Greece, Netherlands,
Norway, Pakistan, Sweden and Upper Volta: revised
draft resolution

Co-operation in the field of the environment concerning
natural resources shared by two or more States

The General Assembly,

Affirming the responsibility of States, as set out in the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, 1/ to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States and to co-operate in developing the international law regarding liability and compensation for such damages,

Recalling its resolution 3129 (XXVIII) of 13 December 1973, entitled "Co-operation in the field of the environment concerning natural resources shared by two or more States",

Also recalling the Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of States contained in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974,

Noting that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, by its decision 6/14 of 19 May 1978, 2/ invited the General Assembly to adopt the draft principles of conduct in the field of the environment for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious utilization of natural resources shared

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. I.

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/33/25), annex I.

by two or more States, contained in the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Natural Resources Shared by Two or More States established under Governing Council decision 44 (III) of 25 April 1975, 3/

Noting also the report by the Secretary-General requested by the General Assembly in resolution 33/87 of 15 December 1978 and containing the comments made by Governments regarding the draft principles, as well as other significant information, recommendations and suggestions in connexion therewith, 4/

Desiring to promote effective co-operation among States for the development of international law regarding the conservation and harmonious utilization of natural resources shared by two or more States,

Recognizing the right of States to provide specific solutions on a bilateral or regional basis,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts established under Governing Council decision 6/14 in conformity with Assembly resolution 3129 (XXVIII);

2. Adopts the draft principles of conduct in the field of the environment for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious utilization of natural resources shared by two or more States;

3. Requests States Members of the United Nations to respect the principles in their inter-State relations;

4. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to encourage the elaboration and application of the principles in the formulation of bilateral or multilateral conventions regarding natural resources shared by two or more States;

5. Also requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Law Commission to consider the provision of a study on the definition of shared natural resources;

6. Further requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Law Commission to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in implementation of the present resolution.

3/ UNEP/GC.6/17.

4/ A/34/557 and Corr.1.